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THE POLITICAL DEADLOCK.

If Nature abhors a vacuum, she equally detests stagnation. Motion—action—is essential to healthful existence. Inertia is utterly inconsistent with life. Death is stagnation; and stagnation leads to death. This law is as wide as the universe in its applicability. Stagnation in the planetary world would instantly produce universal disaster; stagnant waters evolve poisonous gases; stagnant vegetation is the precursor of rotteness and decay; stagnation in individual man signifies physical prostration or mental incapacity, or both; and stagnation in the life of a nation means decline and fall. In action, in progress, a nation lives, and moves, and has its political being. A nation cannot stand still; it must keep moving; and, if it does not move onward, it must—decay of vitality having set in—go backwards. It has no choice. It must obey the universal law: progress, perfection—which means a brief period, a mere instant of time only—and decay. This law, applicable everywhere, is especially so in con-

stitutionally-governed countries. The progress made may be slow, may be all but imperceptible; but progress it must be. And in this fact is wrapped up a potent argument for reform in the British Parliament. We are in a political deadlock. Parties are so equally balanced that stability of government and progressive legislation are next to impossible. Were there no other reason, some change is necessary in order that the Queen's Government may be carried on. A powerful Opposition, in a country governed by parties, may be—we dare say is—necessary; but a still stronger Ministerial party is yet more necessary. The party in power ought always to be so much stronger than that in opposition as to be able to conduct the government of the country with vigour, and to pass through Parliament the measures it deems needful to the nation's welfare. If it cannot do this, its usefulness is destroyed; its virtue has passed out of it. And this is nearly the pass to which we have now arrived. The Liberals in Parliament are not strong enough

or sufficiently united to sustain the government in its policy in despite of the Tories. The Ministers are too weak to have a firm hold of office, and are yet too strong to be compelled to retire. The Conservatives, on the other hand, are sufficiently strong and sufficiently united to be powerful for obstruction; but are not strong enough to oust their antagonists and assume the reins of government themselves. The Tory leaders know this, and the Liberal opponents of reform know it; and hence both are unwilling to upset the Russell-Gladstone Cabinet. A purely Tory Administration is impossible, and a Liberal Ministry with a progressive policy seems equally so. The Government, consequently, is maintained in office, but is shorn of power. This may suit the purposes of party; but the result is legislative stagnation and the introduction of pernicious elements into the political atmosphere.

Between the two stools of too weak a Government and too strong an Opposition the country's business falls to the ground. Legislation at home is at a standstill; while abroad the



SCENE FROM "IPHIGENIA," AT HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

national will lacks forcible expression. The nation's dignity, influence, and power are deteriorated. Its honour is liable to be betrayed, not from lack of will, but from want of power to defend it; for how can any Minister speak to the outer world with authority, or have a definite and decided policy, who is uncertain of his own position at home, and knows not on what degree of support he can calculate? Hence it is, we believe, that the influence of Great Britain has of late declined in the councils of Europe. Foreign Potentates and their Ministers know that the existing Government in England, of whatever party it may be composed, has no decidedly-preponderating support in Parliament, and consequently no stable hold on power, and are thereby encouraged to disregard our advice, and even to set our menaces at defiance.

How is this condition of affairs to be cured? How are we to extricate ourselves from this political deadlock? Clearly we must so modify our institutions as to strengthen one or other of the great parties in the State. We must either advance, and give greater influence to the popular voice, and therefore greater power to the Liberal party, or we must retrograde—we must curtail the power of the people at large, increase that of the aristocracy, and thereby add to the strength of the Conservatives. In other words, we must either complete—to a certain extent, at least—the work of the last thirty and odd years, or we must undo it. Which of these two courses shall we pursue? Not the latter, certainly. To that the people will never consent. We cannot “progress backwards.” We cannot stand still. A continuance of the existing state of things is impossible. “Forward,” therefore, must be the word; and here, as we have said, is a potent argument in favour of reform, in favour of still further popularising our institutions, in favour of admitting a larger number of the people to a participation in the national councils, and of thereby giving a preponderance to whichever party—Liberal or Conservative—the policy of which the enlarged constituency most approves. Be it Tory or be it Liberal, let us at least have a Government strong enough to conduct the affairs of the nation with vigour, and to make its voice respected in the councils of the world. Such a Government we cannot have while parties are so evenly balanced as they are at present. Our institutions, therefore, must be so modified as to rectify the existing anomaly. The direction in which the modification must be made we have already indicated: there can be no dispute on that point. The question for decision is one of degree, not of direction; and, for our present purpose, we care little how large or how small the modification be, so long as the object aimed at—that of curing the existing political deadlock—is attained.

“IPHIGENIA” AT HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

WE mentioned some weeks ago that Gluck's opera of “Iphigenia in Tauris” had been produced at Her Majesty's Theatre, with the principal parts supported by Mlle. Titiens, Signor Gardoni, M. Gassier, and Mr. Santley—certainly a most cosmopolitan cast, including, as it did, a German soprano, an Italian tenor, a French baritone, and an English bass. Although some years ago two performances of “Iphigenia in Tauris” were given in Manchester and one in London, under the direction of Mr. Charles Hallé, they were only concert performances, and the opera in question has now been brought out on the stage for the first time in England, or, at least, the first time during the present century.

The scene which we have engraved occurs, as those familiar with the work will know, in the last act, where Iphigenia recognises her brother, when the latter is about to be offered in sacrifice. The whole opera, but especially this scene, was admirably performed and was most effective.

THE DINNERS AT THE TUILERIES.—For some time past there have been frequently seen at the Imperial dinner-table of the Tuileries high provincial functionaries, such as prefects, presidents of courts of law, procurators general, &c. This is a custom recently inaugurated by their Majesties, who desire to know individually as much as possible all the high officials of the departments. Thus, as soon as one of them arrives in Paris, as he ordinarily goes and leaves his card at once with his Minister, notice is immediately given to the Emperor, who soon invites the personage to dine at the Tuileries. At the table the latter is usually placed by the side of the Empress and presented to the Prince Imperial, who, since the return from Compiègne, has always dined with their Majesties. The Emperor converses freely with the guest relative to his province, and listens with interest to all details concerning it.

SUICIDE BY A BETTING MAN.—A man named Samuel Birchall, an engineer in the service of the Midland Railway Company, committed suicide in Leeds, on Monday, by poisoning himself with opium. Deceased was fifty-five years of age, and had been in the employ of the company about twenty years. He was strongly addicted to the turf, and has recently suffered heavily from horse-racing. After an absence from Leeds of about nine weeks, he visited his family on Friday last, and on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday he was in a continued state of intoxication. On Monday he said, “I had ‘taken something,’ and the medical men who were called in found him suffering from the effects of opium. Emetics were administered, but without effect; and when these remedies were being persisted in the deceased ‘died energetically’ at Mr. Woodhead, the doctor, and endeavoured to strike him.” A verdict of “Felo-de-se” was returned by the jury at the inquest, which was held on Tuesday.

OLD ST. PANCRA'S CHURCHYARD.—The Midland Railway Company, it seems, is proceeding with its desecration of this ancient and remarkable cemetery. A tunnel is being dug beneath the graves; but, what is still worse, a high construction, on arches is to be made to pass over the centre of the burial-ground, and thus the trains will be constantly flying past the very windows of the church, and be rumbling over the tombs of the hallowed dead. A host of British and Irish nobility—Abercromby, Arundell, Clifford, Howard, Castlehaven, Dangan, and such like, lie interred in this ground; added to which the place contains the graves of many illustrious French, among them princes, archbishops, bishops, peers, and marshals of France. The great Pascal Paoli, the kinsman of the Emperor of the French, is buried here; among the other names may be mentioned La Marche, the amiable and venerable Bishop of St. Pol de Leon; Chalmazel, Bishop of Coutances; Arthur Richard Dillon, Bishop of Evreux; Archbishop of Narbonne, and President of the States of Languedoc; the Marquis de Bouille, and the Baroness de Montalembert. The formation of the railway arches will necessarily cause some of these mouldering remains to be uncovered and dug up.

SINGULAR QUESTION AFFECTING BEER-SHOPS.—The Leeds magistrates, on Tuesday, gave their decision in a case charging Thomas Settle with selling beer at unlawful hours. Three others were also summoned under similar circumstances. Mr. Ferns contended that the defendants were not licensed under the ordinary Beer Act, and that therefore the requirements of the statute did not apply to them. They had wholesale licenses under the 26th and 27th Victoria, together with the additional licenses under the Act to enable them to sell beer by retail, not to be drunk or consumed upon the premises, and paid the percentage (5 per cent) required to be paid to the Excise authorities. These conditions being complied with, the defendants could sell beer in any quantity in any manner, and, with the exception of Sunday, at any time, provided it was not consumed upon the premises. The Chairman (Mr. Cliff) now said: In these four cases the objection was taken that under the Act of Parliament there was no restriction as to the time of selling beer. The magistrates have had the advice of their clerk, and have looked through the Act. They are compelled to admit that, as far as they can see, the objection is a good one, and that there is no restriction in the Act as to the time of selling. The summonses were consequently dismissed.

Foreign Intelligence.

THE EUROPEAN CRISIS.

The last hope of peace would seem to have vanished. The project of a congress has been formally abandoned in consequence of the impracticable conditions insisted upon by Austria. These conditions were, that each of the litigant Powers should make a declaration that no increase of territory was sought—in other words, that the Venetian question should not be discussed, and that the Holstein question should be left to the decision of Germany. The French Government has notified to the Prussian Cabinet that the negotiation is at an end, and that the hostile Powers must be left to themselves. A similar communication has been received by the English Government. It is said that when the Austrian determination was communicated to the Emperor Napoleon he said, “Well, Austria takes upon herself a grave responsibility.” What part he intends to play in the coming sanguinary drama remains yet to be seen; but there are very few people in France or elsewhere who expect that he will keep out of the contest.

It is generally reported in Vienna that Russia concurs in the attitude assumed by Austria.

The *Constitutionnel* and other French journals are blaming Austria for causing the failure of the conference, but nearly all the German Governments have announced their approval of the reservations made by Austria. The three armed Powers are finishing their levies and taking their last steps preparatory to a contest, though each seems to hesitate to incur the responsibility of commencing it.

In consequence of the failure of the conference, it is possible that war may break out in a few days, if not in a few hours. Where the first blow will be struck is not so certain. The Italians may make the onset, but it is equally probable that there will be a collision in Silesia or even in Holstein. Prince Frederick Charles has left Berlin for headquarters in Silesia; and General von Benedek is preparing for fighting by ordering all newspaper correspondents out of his camp, and prohibiting any officer from either writing to the journals or giving any information to any person who might wish to write. An order of the day on this subject says:—

I prohibit, in the most formal and express manner, officers or other persons belonging to the troops, military establishments, or equipages furnishing articles to the newspapers, either directly or indirectly. It is equally contrary to the interests of the army that criticisms, generally ill-founded or resting upon facts imperfectly interpreted, should be permitted in newspaper correspondences or articles; that complaints should be made in those publications of any temporary deficiency, as our adversaries may deduce therefrom the nature of the attitude, spirit, equipment, &c., of the army. I shall in no way tolerate, either at headquarters or with other commanders or corps, paid or unpaid newspaper correspondents, either civil or military. I request the commanders to see that no one belonging to the army lends himself to supplying articles destined for the journals unless he has received a mission from the Government; for I shall know how to discover such correspondents by all the means in my power, and shall at once dismiss them, without any consideration, from the army, or, in case of necessity, will even have them prosecuted by the military courts.

An Austrian Imperial decree has been issued suspending for the present, on account of the dangers menacing the southern parts of the empire, the laws for the protection of personal liberty and inviolability of domicile in Venetia, the Istrian seaboard, Goritz and Gradiška, Southern Tyrol, and Dalmatia. An order has also been issued empowering the General commanding the army of the north to suspend, in case of necessity, the above laws in all fortified places under his command, including their environs, and also in some other districts. He is furthermore empowered to establish military courts for the trial of civilians for certain offences hitherto punishable by the ordinary penal code, and, in certain contingencies, to proclaim martial law.

Intelligence from Venice states that great agitation prevails in that city on account of the forced loan and the refusal of the municipality to co-operate in collecting it. Great numbers had deserted the city in consequence of the new conscription ordered by the Government. The authorities are said to have made arrangements for carrying away the valuables of the Basilica of St. Mark.

The Chamber of Commerce of Trieste has addressed petitions to the Minister of Commerce at Vienna and to the permanent committee of the Chamber of Commerce at Berlin, soliciting them to use their exertions for obtaining a general recognition of the principle that in time of war purely mercantile ports shall not be blockaded.

An ordinance has been published, signed by General von Gablenz, convoking the estates of Holstein, by order of the Emperor of Austria, for the 11th inst. The deputies, or their substitutes, are to assemble at Itzehoe, and the discussions are to be terminated within three months. There has been a meeting in Altona in reference to the conduct of Austria with regard to the duchies. The meeting was most numerous attended, and resolutions of thanks to Austria were agreed to. Whatever takes place, it seems most likely that Austria will have the sympathy of the German people in the duchies. The Austrian brigade Kalik has received orders to retire to Altona. The Prussian troops entered Holstein on Thursday morning. They are ordered to occupy Rendsbourg, Kiel, and Itzehoe.

The Prussian Government has addressed a despatch to Vienna declaring that the measures announced by Austria in the Federal Diet violate the Treaty of Gastein and cause the suspension of the co-possession as now existing in the duchies. The two Powers are therefore restored to the position and rights accorded to them by the Treaty of Vienna, which retains its European validity.

According to a Berlin telegram, an official despatch has arrived in that city from the French Government, announcing that France will remain neutral, but will place a corps of observation upon the Italian frontier.

The Florence journals are of opinion that as Austria's resolution not to discuss the Venetian question was foreseen, it will not prevent the meeting of the proposed conference, the object of which is to determine the respective share of responsibility in the present difficulties which devolves upon each of the antagonistic Powers. The conference will only provide the bases for a subsequent settlement of pending questions.

In Wednesday's sitting of the German Federal Diet the motion of Bavaria proposing the neutralisation of the Federal fortresses of Mayence and Rastadt, and the withdrawal of the Austrian and Prussian contingents in those places to Frankfurt-on-the-Main, was unanimously agreed to.

Referring to the convocation of the Holstein Estates by the Austrian Government, the Oldenburg representative entered a solemn protest against the possession of any competency by those Estates to decide the succession question in the duchies.

ROUMANIA.

Differences have arisen in the Conference on the Danubian Principalities as to the course to be pursued in consequence of the election of Prince Charles as Hospodar. Russia and Turkey demand that a Commission should be sent into Roumania; but France, England, and Italy are opposed to that expedient, as likely to lead to the military occupation of the country. Turkey advocates military occupation, a point on which the Russian Minister reserved his opinion till he consulted his Government. The matter, in the mean time, remains unsettled.

THE UNITED STATES.

Our advices from New York extend to the 26th ult. Mr. Seward had delivered a speech at Auburn, in which he defended the course of the President respecting the recent vetoes. His plan of reconstruction was the only practical one yet suggested. Congress indiscriminately grouped loyal and disloyal by excluding loyal Southern representatives. The differences between the Executive and Congress were, he said, less serious than was supposed, and need not cause the disruption of the Republican party. The general tone of Mr. Seward's speech was mediatorial. The President and the members of the Cabinet had been serenaded by the National Union Club. The President responded, briefly thanking the club for this demonstration of approval of his conduct as a public

servant. The day was not far distant when the people would be satisfied that they were right. Mr. Stanton delivered a long speech, in which he said the President was cordially supported by the Cabinet. The plan of reconstruction proposed by the Committee in Congress was unwise and impolitic. Mr. McCulloch also warmly approved the President's policy, and said he would eagerly embrace any plan of reconstruction better than his own whenever presented.

The Governor of North Carolina, in a message to the State Convention, declares that the civil government of that State is in complete operation. He strongly indorses the policy of Mr. Johnson.

The Ohio Democratic Convention had passed resolutions indorsing the policy of the President and denouncing the conduct of the Senate. Mr. Vallandigham made a speech, declaring that Congress was secretly conspiring to depose President Johnson.

Judge Thomas, of the Circuit Court of Virginia, Alexandria, had decided, in opposition to the Civil Rights Bill, that no Congressional legislation can impair the right of the State to enforce the existing laws excluding negro testimony from the courts.

Mr. Jefferson Davis had been granted the freedom of Fortress Monroe on parole. He had also been permitted to have frequent private interviews with Messrs. O'Connor and Shea, and it was rumoured that his trial will be postponed until August.

The collector of customs at Rouse's Point had seized 1700 muskets, supposed to belong to the Fenians. Eighty-seven cases of arms belonging to the Senate faction had been seized at Erie, Pennsylvania. The report that the Fenian circles at Washington had resolved to support Stephens was denied. Stephens was said to be receiving subscriptions from numerous circles. He had addressed a mass meeting of Fenians at Brooklyn, and declared that unless Ireland was liberated the Irish race in a few years would be absorbed in America and disappear from the earth. He urged the reconciliation of the opposing circles preparatory to action, and declared he could get 100,000 rifles safely into Ireland. Sir Frederick Bruce had conveyed to Mr. Seward the thanks of the British Government for the efficient means adopted by the Government of the United States to suppress Fenian demonstrations.

Accounts published by the Southern newspapers estimate that the coming cotton crop will not exceed 1,500,000 bales.

The New York Academy of Music had been destroyed by an incendiary fire.

PERU.

Letters received from Peru to the 28th of April announce that the Italian Minister, Signor Migliorati, had interposed his good offices between Admiral Nunez and the Peruvian Government. On the departure of the mail on the 28th of April a favourable result was expected from the negotiations.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The Basuto war has at last terminated. Gold has been discovered in the Dutch Republic of the Transvaal; and British Kaffraria has now been formally incorporated with the Cape Colony.

AUSTRIA AND THE HOLSTEIN QUESTION.

On the 1st inst., immediately after the election of Baron von der Pfordten as representative of the Germanic Confederation at the Conference of Paris, Baron Kubeck, the representative of Austria in the Germanic Diet, made a declaration which may perhaps lead to an immediate rupture between herself and Prussia, as the latter has more than once hinted that the convocation of the Holstein Estates will be considered a *casus belli*. M. de Kubeck spoke to the following effect:—

Austria has the consciousness of having exerted herself to the utmost to come to an amicable understanding with Prussia in regard to the Elbe duchies. His Majesty the Emperor has made all the concessions to Prussia that the dignity of the Empire and the laws of the Germanic Confederation will permit. Prussia has made “unjust demands,” and gradually displayed an inclination violently to enforce them. After peace had been concluded at Vienna, Prussia threatened to force the Federal forces to evacuate Holstein. She now treats the question relative to the duchies as a *Machfrage* (a question of might), and seeks the support of a foreign Power which is opposed to Austria. At the time that the Convention of Gastein was concluded Prussia displayed an inclination to act as she is now doing, and became more exacting when she found that Austria was not disposed to govern Holstein in a way that was calculated to further her policy of annexation. Being menaced on two sides, Austria has deemed it necessary to prepare for defence. Of the military preparations against Italy nothing need here be said. Austria is willing to withdraw her army from the Prussian frontiers and to place it on a peace footing when she no longer has cause to fear that an attack will be made on her own territory or on that of a federal ally, and has obtained a guarantee that the danger of war will not return. It is of high importance, as well for Germany as for Austria, that justice and treaties, and not brute force, should have the upper hand in Germany. Though Prussia is a European Power she must respect the resolutions of the Bund, and let the Schleswig-Holstein question be settled in a way which shall be in accordance with the Federal laws and with the laws of the above-mentioned countries. In respect to a common declaration made by Austria and Prussia on the 24th of August, 1865, Baron Kubeck said that, as Austria had not been able to induce Prussia to agree to settle the question relative to the Elbe duchies in a federal way, “she now referred the whole matter to the Bund, whose behests she would obey.” The President of the Federal Diet then stated that the Imperial Stadtholder in Holstein had been empowered to convocate the Estates of the duchy, “in order that the views and wishes of the people may publicly be made known.”

DEATH OF THE EARL OF CHESTERFIELD.—We announce with much regret the death of the Earl of Chesterfield, which occurred shortly after ten o'clock on Sunday night. He was the only son of Philip, fifth Earl, by his second marriage, with Lady Henrietta Thynne, a daughter of the first Marquis of Bath. He was born on May 23, 1805, and, consequently, was in his sixty-second year. He married, in November, 1830, the Hon. Anne Elizabeth Forester, eldest daughter of Cecil Weld, first Lord Forester, by whom he leaves a son and daughter—Lord Stanhope, M.P. for South Nottinghamshire, formerly in the Horse Guards; and Lady Evelyn, married to the Earl of Carnarvon.

GREAT ERUPTION IN HAWAII.—The volcano of Mauna Loa, on the island of Hawaii, has recently been the scene of a huge eruption, surpassing any of which there is record. A new crater opened near the summit of the mountain at an elevation of 10,000 ft., and for three days a flood of lava was poured down the north-eastern slope. The eruption then ceased, and all was quiet for thirty-six hours. Another crater then opened on the eastern slope. It would seem that the summit lava had found a subterranean tunnel; for half way down the mountain, when coming to a weak point or meeting with some obstruction, it burst up vertically, sending a column of incandescent lava 1000 ft. high into the air. This fire jet was about 100 ft. in diameter, and was sustained for twenty days and nights, varying in height from 100 ft. to 1000 ft. The disgorge from the mountain side was often accompanied by terrific explosion, which shook the hills, and with detonations which were heard for forty miles. This column of liquid fire was an object of surpassing brilliancy, of intense and awful grandeur. As the jet issued from the awful orifice it was white heat. As it ascended higher and higher it reddened like fresh blood, deepening its colour, until, in its descent, much of it assumed the colour of clotted gore. In a few days the cone of the crater had been raised to a height of 300 ft., and became one vast heap of glowing fire, flashing and quivering with restless action, and sending out the heat of 10,000 furnaces in full blast. The struggles in disgorging the fiery masses, the upward rush of the column, the force which raised it 1000 vertical feet, and the continuous falling back of thousands of tons of mineral fusa into the throat of the crater, and over a cone of glowing minerals one mile in circumference, was a sight to inspire awe and terror, attended with explosive shocks which seemed to rend the mural ribs of the mountain, and sound to waken the dead and startle the spirits in Hades. From this fountain a river of fire went rushing and leaping down the mountain with amazing velocity, filling up basins and ravines, dashing over precipices, and exploding rocks, until it reached the forests at the base of the mountain, where it burnt its fiery way, consuming the jungle, evaporating the water of the streams and pools, cutting down the trees, and sending up clouds of smoke and steam and murky columns of fleecy wreaths to heaven. All Eastern Hawaii was a scene of light, and night was turned into day. Mariners at sea saw the light at 200 miles distance. It was a pyrotechnical display more magnificent and marvellous than was ever made by any earthly monarch. In the daytime the atmosphere for thousands of square miles would be filled with a murky haze, through which the sunbeams shed a pale and sickly light. Smoke, steam, gases, and cinders floated in the air, sometimes spreading out like a fan, sometimes carving in swift currents upon the wind, or gyrating in ever-changing colours in fitful breezes. It was such a scene as few mortals ever witnessed. There was no sleep for the spectator. The fierce, red glare, the subterranean mutterings and strugglings, the rapid explosion of gases, the rushes and roar, the sudden and startling bursts, as of crushing thunder—all were awe-inspiring, and all combined to render the scene one of indescribable brilliancy and of terrible sublimity. The rivers of fire from the fountain flowed about thirty-five miles, and stopped within ten miles of Hilo. Had the fountain played ten days longer, it would probably have reached the shore.

STATE OF FEELING IN RUSSIA.

THE examination of M. Karakoff, who attempted the life of the Emperor of Russia a short time ago, proved him to be only one in a conspiracy to murder the Sovereign and subvert the institutions of the realm. This fact has now been confirmed by no less an authority than the Emperor of Russia himself, who has addressed the following remarkable letter to Prince Gagarine, the President of his Council of Ministers:—

Prince Paul Pavlovitch.—The unanimous manifestations of loyalty and devotion which I have lately received from the people entrusted to me by the will of Providence are the best evidence of the actual existence of such feelings as form the most gratifying reward that could be offered me for my labours on behalf of Russia.

The more vividly I experience this, the more deeply do I recognise the obligation of protecting Russia against the spread of certain obnoxious doctrines which in course of time might undermine and endanger the whole social fabric unless a speedy stop were put to their dissemination.

The event which has caused so many loyal addresses to be transmitted to me from every corner of my empire has also given occasion for a closer inquiry into the nature of those pernicious doctrines as well as the means by which they are propagated and introduced into society. The investigations carried on by the special commission instituted by me have laid bare the root of the evil. Russia, in accordance with the will of divine Providence, has thus been warned against the possible consequences of principles and aspirations savagely repudiating all that is sacred to her, and despising alike her religion, her social institutions, her respect for the maintenance of family life, her adherence to the right of property, and her obedience to the law and the constituted authorities.

In consequence, my attention has been directed to the state of the schools and the system followed in the education of our youth. I have commanded that they shall be brought up with a strict regard for religion, for the rights of property, and the fundamental principles of social order; and that in the schools attached to the various departments of the public service no pains shall be spared to prevent the open or disguised inculcation of those perverted notions which are alike hostile to moral and material welfare. But instruction cannot effect all the good it might, unless family life is guided by Christian faith and a recognition of the duties of a loyal citizen. I therefore entertain the sincere hope that my views will be met by my loyal people, and that in all appertaining to domestic education they will co-operate with me to bring about this desirable end.

No less essential for the welfare of the Empire as a whole as well as for the prosperity of each of my subjects individually is the acknowledgment of the sacredness of property as laid down in the laws and statutes proclaimed by me on the 19th of February, 1861.* The right of property is not only the fundamental law of all well-ordered society, but the sole guarantee of private and public prosperity, mutually promoting and stimulating each other. To raise doubts on this point can be only ventured upon by the enemies of social order.

To impress sound principles upon the public mind is the duty of all engaged in the service of the State. All who are called upon to serve me and the country should consider it their primary obligation to carry out the views of Government, without deviating from them in the smallest particular. To abuse or to neglect the true exercise of authority is alike prejudicial; and it is only by every individual official strictly adhering to the orders of his superiors that the government can be carried on with that unity of purpose and consistency of design so indispensable for the attainment of its objects.

I am aware that some members of the civil service have been implicated in the dissemination of rumours misrepresenting the acts and objects of Government. Some have even gone so far as to countenance the development of those baneful notions the spread of which must be at once stopped. Being Government employes, their statements had the more weight, and in themselves served to mislead people as to the veritable intents and purposes of the authorities. This abuse of power will be no longer suffered. All members of the civil service are rigidly to superintend the conduct of those under their direction, and to insist upon the full, strict, and unconditional execution of the duties imposed upon them. This is the only way that a Government can be carried on effectively and that the officials can evince their respect for superior authority.

To ensure the full success of the measures taken against those deleterious teachings rampant among our people, calculated to shake the very foundations of religion, morality, and social order, the chiefs of the various departments of the public service ought to combine with those sound, conservative, and well-meaning elements with which Russia has always been blessed, and, thank God, is blessed to this day. These seeds of improvement are to be found in all classes in which are respected the principle of property, the secure and legal possession of landed estates, the unity of the empire, order and quiet, morality and religious truth. The importance of spreading these principles ought to be kept in view when appointing officials to the various branches of the service. Thereby confidence in the authorities will be preserved in all classes of the people and malicious calumny counteracted. To promote this end, in accordance with my often expressed wishes and commands, all departments ought to manifest the most implicit respect for the rights of property, and attend to all petitions having reference to the good of particular districts and particular strata of the population. All attempts to engender strife between the different classes, and more especially to rouse animosity against the nobles and landed proprietors generally, whom the enemies of social order regard as their most inveterate adversaries, must be prohibited. Strict and faithful adherence to these principles will check these criminal aspirations, which have been fully unmasked, and shall be subjected to the just penalty of the law. You are directed to communicate this my receipt to all Ministers and the heads of the separate departments for their guidance.

With the assurance of my sincere regards, yours,
Zarsko-Selo, May 25.

ALEXANDER.

This letter, which, from internal evidence, we may conclude to be the personal production of the Imperial writer, contains the first official recognition of the existence of the so-called sect of Nihilists in Russia. This name has been recently invented to denote an extreme fraction of Radicals, who are the offspring of the social revolution occasioned by the emancipation of the peasantry. Russian Liberals have always had a tendency to Radicalism. Exclusively belonging to the educated classes, they formerly were recruited from among the younger members of the civil service, whom a learned education or an ardent temperament had rendered discontented with the faults and deficiencies of the existing system of government. To compete with the other European Governments in the race of power, Russian autocracy requires a number of schools in the country; but European schools are not conceived in the spirit of Asiatic absolutism, and thus it happens that some of the pupils turn restive and are infected with Radical feelings by the very lore which is intended to make them useful servants of the Czar. This has been ever the case since the first introduction of culture into the country, and from time to time produced the conspiracies of those unfortunate enthusiasts whose names have attained a melancholy celebrity in Russian history. Of late, however, the evil has been aggravated and considerably extended by the impoverishment of so very many nobles, consequent upon the manumission of the serf. It is no longer a few youngsters, but a class of ruined men, that are liable to contamination; it is no longer Constitutionalism, but Republicanism and Socialism, which form the ideal of those deprived of their property and disposed to embrace opposition tenets. The worst is that, Liberalism having been always identical in Russia with culture, these extravagant doctrines were accepted the more easily as they not only seemed to open a way to the recovery of wealth and liberty, but also to constitute the latest discoveries in social science. Can it be believed, that even in despotic Russia papers and even reviews were started for promulgating—in a cautious and guarded manner, it is true, yet so as to be plainly intelligible—the visionary axioms of the French socialistic school?—The Russian mind being very receptive, but not equally retentive. The poison has probably not worked its way so deeply into the system of society as the Government now apprehend. Still, things must have gone further than they ought if the Emperor does not hesitate to refer a conspiracy which attempted his life to the prevalence of certain mischievous opinions among the nation at large.

* They refer to the emancipation of the peasantry.

THE WELSH COLLIERS.—The colliers of South Wales have commenced an agitation for an advance of wages, and several mass meetings of the men have been held on the mountains in the neighbourhood of the Rhondda Valley. The colliers maintain that, as the demand for steam coal is so brisk and good prices are obtained, they are entitled to a rise in wages; but, on the other hand, it is held that the men have been equally benefited with the masters in this improvement, through the increased and more regular work they have received. The employers are quite unanimous that it would be impossible to grant an advance at present, and it is generally agreed that, with a monetary panic at home and war impending on the Continent, a more inopportune moment could not have been chosen for making the application. Several of the colliery owners have suffered through the panic in the Money Market, and, unless confidence is soon restored, it is the opinion of many who have had a long connection with the South Wales coal trade that it is not at all improbable that a reduction in wages will before long have to be submitted to.

BOMBARDMENT OF CALLAO.

ON the 14th of April the Spanish fleet raised the blockade of Valparaiso and sailed from that port. The American squadron, under Commodore Rogers, followed; and on the 25th of April the ships anchored off Callao, Peru. On the morning of that day the English mail-steamers from Valparaiso reached the port, and bore news that the hostile fleet was approaching a few hours only before the Spanish vessels came to anchor. This was the first intelligence received in Callao of the movement. Great alarm was manifested by the inhabitants until it became plain that the attack was not to be an immediate one. On the morning of the 26th of April, Admiral Nunez gave formal notice to the authorities at Callao of his intention to attack the city, and that four days would be allowed for the removal of non-combatants and foreigners. Great activity was shown by the Peruvians in removing private property during this interval; but equally strenuous efforts were made to raise new and to perfect existing fortifications, in order that the place, which is fortified, might be defended to the utmost. Earthworks were rapidly thrown up, and torpedo-boats were prepared for use if they might be available. The 1st of May being foggy, the attack was postponed; but on the 2nd the shore batteries commenced firing. The fire was returned by the Spaniards from the Berenguela, Villada Madrid, and Blanca, laying on the northern side of the port; and the Numancia, Resolucion, and Almanza on the south. The Villa de Madrid and Berenguela were so badly injured early in the fight that they were obliged to withdraw to San Lorenzo. They were afterwards followed by the Numancia and the rest of the fleet, more or less damaged. The fight lasted till four o'clock in the afternoon. Nothing reliable is known of the exact number of killed and wounded on either side. Battery No. 3 was blown up. The Peruvian Secretary for War, Senor Galvez, was in it at the time, and was thus killed. The wounded on shore, as fast as they fell, were carried to the rear, and sent to the hospital at Bellavista. Those whose friends resided at Lima were sent to them in the city. It was reported that the Peruvians had lost 60 killed, and about 170 wounded. Nothing is known as to the loss on board the Spanish fleet, but, injured as their ships were, the number of casualties are probably very heavy. Admiral Nunez is reported to have received eight wounds and contusions—one on the head is pronounced to be severe. The American surgeons, who offered their services to both parties alike, were not allowed to see the Spanish Admiral. One shot that disabled the steam-pipe of the Villa de Madrid killed eighteen men and wounded twenty-one.

Dr. Peck, of the United States steamer Vanderbilt, when he went alongside the Villa de Madrid, counted eight shot holes in her sides. The Blanca was struck over forty times, and the Almanza and Berenguela suffered almost as much. The Resolucion was hit often—possibly as many times as the others. The ironclad Numancia came off very well; but one 8-inch rifled projectile from battery No. 5 pierced her 5½-inch iron plating, and went partly through the wooden backing. She was placed so as to receive the fire at an angle, hence her plating caused the shot to glance. The Vencedora was uninjured. At the conclusion of the engagement the ships resumed their old position, and commenced repairing. The probable future movements of the Spanish fleet were not known; but it was presumed it would return to Spain, if possible. The Peruvian war-vessels Huascar and Independencia were expected at Callao.

Commodore Rodgers, of the United States Pacific squadron, has transmitted to the Secretary of the Navy the following report of the bombardment:—

United States Steamer Vanderbilt, at Sea,
May 10, 1866.

Sir,—I have the honour to report that, on the 27th of April, the Spanish Admiral, Mendez Nunez, addressed a letter to the Diplomatic Corps in Sania declaring that the port of Callao was blockaded from that date, also another justifying the course of Spain, and announcing that he should give neutral inhabitants four days to remove their persons and property previous to the bombardment of the city. On the 30th of April Admiral Peary anchored our men-of-war out of gunshot of the fortifications of Callao. Merchant-vessels had some days before taken positions out of the way of hostile operations. It was thought that the attack would commence on the 1st of May, when the time expired given to neutrals for removal; but, on the 2nd of May, about ten o'clock a.m., the Spanish fleet got under way. Some time was spent in forming their lines, and about eleven o'clock the squadron moved in two divisions to attack the defences of Callao. The first division, under Admiral Nunez, consisting of the ironclad Numancia, of 7000 tons burden, with the frigates Blanca and Resolucion, moved along the San Corcos Island to attack the batteries on the south side of Callao, while the frigates Villa de Madrid, Berenguela, and Almanza, passing in front of the national and merchant vessels anchored in the bay, steamed at first slowly towards the Peruvian batteries on the north side of the city. As these vessels approached they accelerated their speed and ran swiftly into position. At fifteen minutes after twelve the first gun was fired—I thought from the Numancia—quickly followed by two from a battery on the south side. The Spanish fleet carried about 240 guns, mostly 32-pounders. The Numancia was armed with 68-pounders, as was also the three-gun corvette Vencedora, which was held in reserve to tow, if necessary, and also, I presume, to cover the transports. The Peruvian batteries numbered, in the aggregate, forty-five guns, five of them 450-pounders (Blakeley's), and four Armstrong guns, 300-pounders, mounted on top of iron turrets. The rest were 32-pounders. Sand-bags were extensively used in making the batteries, to which were added brick masonry and some of adobe. The firing soon became warm. About two o'clock the Villa de Madrid set her jibs and trysails, and was out of the fight. She made signals, and was taken in tow by the Vencedora, with steam escaping abundantly below. She was soon followed by the Berenguela, listed over to one side, and with smoke pouring from her ports. Just before she retired a puff of black dust had shot out at her water-line on the side away from the batteries. A ball had gone through the coal-bunkers, I thought, and through both sides. We saw men over the side attempting to patch with canvas the ragged hole, which seemed some 2 ft. square. The Almanza moved to join the first division, engaged with the southern batteries. The Resolucion and Blanca, about 2.30, steamed away from the southern division, leaving the Almanza and the Numancia still engaged. These vessels drew off at fifteen minutes before eight o'clock, the Peruvians firing after them as long as their guns could reach.

The action was fought on both sides with courage and persistency. The Peruvian guns, which were all *en barbette*, never ceased firing, and the Spaniards, I believe, only left off when their ammunition was exhausted. The killed and wounded in the batteries were said to number eighty. In one of the iron-clad batteries a shell exploded, igniting other powder and disabling the guns. By this explosion Senor Galvez, the Peruvian Minister of War and Marine, was blown to atoms. He was next to the Dictator in power, of liberal views and marked ability. His loss will prove a serious one to the country. His Excellency the Dictator is said to have been everywhere in the thickest of the fight, animating, encouraging, and directing the Peruvian batteries.

I do not know the damage to the Spanish fleet; but the loss was, no doubt, heavy. It was obvious that several of the vessels had been badly punished. The Spaniards, we thought, did not go very near to the batteries, many of their shot falling into the water. The presence of torpedoes may have inspired caution.

In coming away from a farewell visit to Admiral Pearson I picked up one floating adrift near our vessels. It was a red keg containing about 50 lb. of wet powder, with some yards of insulated wire attached, and inside the arrangement for explosion by galvanic battery.

The senior surgeon, Dr. Peck, was sent to the Villa de Madrid and Berenguela as soon as they anchored, with offers of assistance. His services were accepted by the surgeon of the Villa de Madrid; but on board the Berenguela the officers gathered around him at the gangway, and said they were deeply grateful, but needed no help. When the Numancia anchored Dr. Johnson was sent on board; while Dr. Peck, who had returned to the Vanderbilt, went on shore to tender his services to the Peruvians. I was sorry to learn through Dr. Johnson that Admiral Nunez had been badly wounded by splinters—no fewer than eight injuries having been received in the head, arms, legs, and side. The doctor was not permitted to see the Admiral, and I apprehend he has been severely hurt.

The Peruvian batteries were but little injured. The authorities on shore were confident that on the morning following the bombardment they would be better prepared than at the first to resist an attack.

There were two iron-clad vessels on the side of the Peruvians—one the monitor Thesoa, with a single gun, a 68-pounder, in a turret; and one, the Vittoria, built in the shape of the Confederate ironclads, covered with railroad iron, and having a 68-pounder at each end. The monitor was struck ten times, but received no damage. I do not know how the other fared.

There were several small men-of-war, but their artillery was too light to be used, and they were secured inside the wall.

JOHN GRAHAM GILBERT, R.S.A., the distinguished Scottish artist, died on Monday, in his seventy-second year. Few painters have done more to propagate a taste for the fine arts in Scotland than Mr. Graham Gilbert, and it is no small compliment to him to mention that many of his works are greatly appreciated on the Continent, where his style is much admired.

THE ARMIES OF EUROPE.

THE relative strength of the armies of the various European Powers, and especially of those likely soon to be engaged in war, is of much interest at present. The following summary, therefore, which we copy from a weekly contemporary, will be acceptable to our readers:—

The sum total of the Austrian troops who are now, or will shortly be, under arms is vaguely put by newspaper correspondents at between 800,000 and 900,000 men. A quarter, probably, of these consists of raw levies; but the complete force of Austria, when placed upon a war footing, has always, of late years, been estimated at not much less than 650,000. Deducting 200,000 for fortress and garrison duty, 450,000, of all branches of the service, would still remain to be employed in active military operations. Considering the character of Austrian troops, this is a formidable force. The provincial divisions of the empire are a source rather of political than of military weakness. In a conflict with North Germany it is no disadvantage to the Austrians that three-fourths of their troops belong to non-German nationalities; and, though dependence cannot be placed on the fidelity of the Italian regiments, the total of Italians serving under the Austrian flag can scarcely amount to more than some 20,000. The mass of the other non-German troops are, probably, profoundly indifferent to the political *pros* and *cons* of either the German or the Italian question, and look forward to war with the noble avidity that characterises the ages of chivalry and of barbarism alike. Even of the German soldiers who serve the Austrian empire a large proportion have their homes in Hungary and the non-German provinces. It will be easy, by judicious management, to distribute the entire body in such a way as to render the chances of any wholesale disaffection remote in the extreme.

Including the Landwehr, the entire complement of Prussia will hardly at present overpass the limit of 550,000 men; and of these, at the utmost calculation, 500,000 only must be considered as effective. In all likelihood the effective number would be still smaller, and should Austria feel able to take the field in the north with 250,000 troops, she will not run any serious danger of being overmatched. Prussian artillery is said to be in all respects most admirable, and the Prussian line places much confidence in the celebrated needle-gun. But it remains to be seen whether the Landwehr system can be depended upon in a somewhat unpopular and domestic German quarrel. Against a foreign invader the Landwehr might be a great military institution; but M. Bismarck is at present forcing the peaceful population of the Prussian kingdom to sacrifice their employments and risk their lives in a war which they regard as wanton and fratricidal. The Prussian troops will sicken of the waste of blood and treasure long before the Sclaves and the Magyars against whom they will be pitted; and they will be tempted to reflect that the wholesale slaughter of German citizens is scarcely compensated by the death of many thousand Croats, Dalmatians, and Ruthenes. The one thing wanted to fire the Prussian army with enthusiasm a few wild journalists and politicians at Vienna seem anxious to supply. If Austria sets before herself the great ambition of exterminating Prussia, she will find the Prussian Landwehr not merely formidable but invincible.

Not more than 200,000 Austrian soldiers can be spared for operations in Venetia, but it is doubtful whether the Italians will be able to enter on a campaign with much more than this themselves. The complete Italian force is at present nearly 430,000, including the reserves; but this figure ought probably to be diminished by 100,000, to allow for the rawest and most untrained material. At the very smallest computation, 50,000 more will have to be detached to watch the Papal frontier and the Neapolitan banditti; and the remainder are at the present moment concentrating in front of the Austrian frontier. Against such an army the Quadrilateral may, perhaps, be secure; but if the Italian navy, which is thought both in ships and in guns to be more than a match for the Austrians, takes Venice at the outset of the war, further operations may be undertaken with success in other directions. The value of the twenty battalions of Garibaldian volunteers will require to be tested before it is taken into consideration. It will depend in no small degree upon the work that is assigned to them; and, provided they steer clear of General Benedek, stone walls, and regular troops, they may be employed usefully in irregular expeditions. The 30,000 French soldiers who are stationed in the vicinity of the Maritime Alps will perhaps serve a purpose, even if they are destined merely to be spectators of the campaign from a safe distance. They will remind Austria of the wisdom and economy of remaining as far as possible on the defensive, and of being contented with something less than the capture of Milan or Bologna. It will not be worth while to expend men and money on conquering territory which she would never be permitted under any circumstances to retain.

When the principal combatants are so fairly balanced, it is natural that each should scan with anxiety the attitude and disposition of the German middle Powers. The army of the Bund, like the Prussian Landwehr, was originally designed to provide against foreign aggression rather than to take part in an intestine German conflict between Austria and Prussia. At the first cannon-shot it would probably dissolve into its component elements, unless, indeed, the whole of the middle States preserve a wise neutrality and confine themselves to occupying in force positions and fortresses that are certain never to be attacked. Should the whole of Germany be ultimately drawn into the dispute, the forces of individual States would add themselves to the army of the belligerent whose ambition they most favoured. If the vote on the Saxon motion is to be taken as any test at all of which side the independent Powers would espouse, Austria may reckon on some accession of strength. The Saxon contingent in any case may be regarded as the avant garde of the Austrian army, and would contribute between 20,000 and 30,000 effective men, with eight or ten batteries of artillery. If Bavaria is resolved to engage in the fray, she will count for some 50,000 to 70,000 more, exclusive of the reserve and the Landwehr. But the sympathies of Bavaria are divided. Most of the southern Courts of Germany are accustomed to look up to the Austrian reigning family; but the Bavarians (with the exception of the population of the south-eastern district) entertain at heart a not unnatural suspicion that Austria bankers after Bavaria as Ahab after Naboth's vineyard, with a covetous and greedy eye. The Bavarians are growing every day less inclined to share in the costly sacrifices of a war that can bring them but little benefit. Württemberg, the population of which is suffering by the present interruption of tranquillity and manufacture, for which it holds M. Bismarck responsible, can reckon up some 20,000 troops. The Hanoverian contingent is stronger, and the Hanoverian cavalry are probably the best-mounted little force of the size in Germany; but, in spite of her vote upon the Saxon motion and her traditional friendship for Austria, Hanover has during the last week been frightened by M. Bismarck into a promise of neutrality. Baden and Hesse-Darmstadt together might furnish a force of from 20,000 to 25,000, and if they fight at all, notwithstanding the family ties of the Baden Court, they will doubtless fight for Austria; while Prince Alexander of Darmstadt has received high military command in the Austrian service. These are the principal of the German contingents and Prussia can hope, at best, for their neutrality, and, if she looks for active aid, must fall back on military allies of less importance, and trust to make the most of the military talent of the Mecklenburg reigning families. But the neutrality of several of the larger States, though by no means assured, grows every day more possible; for the whole of the industrious German population is beginning to rebel against the prospect of idle and wasteful bloodshed. Germans move slowly, but large masses of Germans are setting their faces in the direction of peace; and if some of the middle States embark in hostilities at all, it will be because, at the risk even of revolution, their Governments are determined to drag them in. In the south of Germany, especially, the popular sentiment is a mixed one. M. Bismarck and Prussia are detested for bringing Germany to the brink of war, but war itself and its contingent horrors are detested even more than Prussia and M. Bismarck. Saxony and the Prussian province of Silesia in particular share the gloomy conviction that they are doomed to be the chief battle-fields in the coming conflict, and would gladly welcome the prospect of peace.

MEMORIAL TO CAPTAIN SPEKE.—A memorial bust of Captain Speke has been placed in the Shirehall at Taunton. The inscription on the pedestal is from the pen of Sir Henry Rawlinson, K.C.B., M.P. for Frome, and is to the following effect:—"To John Hanning Speke, of the Indian Army," the discoverer of the sources of the Nile, who by his intrepid and memorable journey through equatorial Africa, from the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean, solved a problem which had baffled geographers for 2000 years, and thus added another to the long list of England's scientific triumphs, this memorial is dedicated by his admiring fellow-citizens, who desire to do him honour by placing his bust in the Shirehall of his county town, amid a noble neighbourhood of Somersetshire worthies."

THE FASHIONS.

ALTHOUGH in Paris scarcely a week elapses without some change of fashion, such minor attractions are mostly confined to the higher, or, at all events, to the most extravagant circles of French society. There has been so little decided change in the spring season, during which the weather has continued cold until the last few days, that the modifications in dress have not been considerable. Now that we seem to have been fairly launched into summer, however, it is necessary to acquaint our readers with those changes and novelties which characterise the fashions for the present month.

We are very pleased to find that with the French aristocracy there is a decided preference for white, either for home, ball, or morning dress. The latter are no longer called *peignons*, although still a *costume negligé*; but are very recherche from their extreme simplicity. Thus a dress of percale, with short cascade of the same, is trimmed with a ruche of the same, stitched on with coloured cotton, or it is scalloped and trimmed with a white or mixed fancy braid.

But, whilst white is adopted for home or ball dresses, we find

striped materials generally admired and worn for walking toilets: white and black, white and lilac, shades of brown and white, are the colours now in vogue. The skirts of dresses are made longer than ever, and are still gored very much, thus producing a very pretty effect by the stripes joining in points on each of the seams. The short casaque is likely to be very much worn: it is cut with pointed basques in front and back, and is curved at the sides; at the waist it is confined by a belt. We have seen this pattern in black silk, trimmed with passementerie and guipure, with ornaments of the same at the back and at the shoulder; but casagues of this material and colour will be worn only with dresses of a rich description; in all other cases the dress and paletot must be of the same.

On dit that a new style of dress will be seen this summer, and that, instead of having the upper skirt of the dress looped up over the jupe, it will be made short, so as to show the trimming of the under skirt, which is rather longer than ordinary jupons, and almost always of the same material as the dress. The trimming must also correspond, and may consist of bands of taffeta, or lacets, according to taste. It is also whispered that the Pompadour style will be adopted, and that jupons of a colour contrasting with that of the robes will be employed; thus, a robe of brown will be worn over a jupon of blue, a dress of violet with a skirt of green; but we must admit that our preference is decidedly given to the *tout ensemble* of the same colour.

One of the prettiest materials for dresses this summer is called *lino-cristal*: it is either self-coloured or striped. Foulards continue in favour; and among the novelties in this material are the foulard Patti, striped all over with a musical score; the foulard glanense, with clusters of wheat-ears caught together by the sickle; the foulard palmier, with interlacing palm-leaves and branches; the foulard fleurette, comprising garlands of small flowers of the most brilliant colours; and the foulard carreau, covered over with black squares, on which are arranged geraniums, heartseases, daisies,

snowdrops, primroses, &c., and looking not unlike a piece of handsome mosaic work.

Robes of *poils de chèvre*, striped or checked, or with small black or coloured spots—bright violet, green, or porcelain blue being the favourite tints—of shot mohair of extremely delicate shades, of *caillouté de Chine*, and of simple jaconet, with casagues ordinarily made to match, are at the present moment in general wear.

A new and very useful addition to the toilet, styled a *peplum*, has been introduced to supersede the necessity of wearing only the skirt of the dress with the jacket—a custom which, during the sultry summer months, is very usual, but at the same time very inconvenient. The *peplum* is a ceinture, with basques, so arranged



as to appear like the skirt of a jacket confined by a band at the waist—the bodice of the dress forming the upper part. It is, of course, of the same material as the robe, and must necessarily fit extremely well.

The extraordinary style of bonnets now in vogue in Paris has been so humorously described by a daily contemporary that we cannot refrain from giving a short extract. We read that to create a fashionable bonnet you may "take a piece of plaited straw of a round or oval form, and bend it into any shape you please so long as you can balance the article on the top of your head. Smother it with artificial flowers, or cover it if you like with puffed tulle, and add lappets at the side if you think them becoming; but this, I should observe, is quite unnecessary. Plant a full-blown rose in the centre, or encircle the whole with a wreath of roses, passion-flowers, pansies, hyacinths, daisies, ivy, or lilies of the valley, or bunches of grapes, or some cherries or gooseberries. Then attach some glass beads round the rim, and strings of ribbon of the same colour as the predominating tint of the flowers or fruit forming the wreath, the ends of which strings tie together across the breast. Next add, if you please, a second pair of strings of muslin or tulle; and you have a bonnet of the prevailing mode, which you can call *chapeau Lamballe*, *fanchon*, *trianon*, *printanier*, *d'été*, *Marly*, or *mandarin blanc*, according to your fancy."

After mentioning several of the most distinguished styles of head-dress displayed at Chantilly, our contemporary describes the *cueilloir*, or *petit panier à fruit*, as the bonnet laden with grapes or strawberries is nicknamed, as being slightly too *prononcé* for everybody's wear; nevertheless, it is frequently to be seen, made, perhaps, of some fancy white straw, and having black lace strings, which are passed over the crown. At the top of the bonnet, immediately in front, you will observe a cluster of black and white cherries,

with small clusters disposed at the sides; or the bonnet—still made of white straw—will be covered entirely with black lace, and have a broad edging of brilliant scarlet velvet and scarlet velvet strings. Wreathed round the rim are bunches of bright red cherries, which are so arranged as to droop in a large cluster over the front. Inside of both bonnets is a band of scarlet velvet, on which rests a narrow *ruche* of white blonde. Another bonnet of this class is of black straw, the centre portion only covered with black lace. The strings are of green ribbon, and a bow of similar ribbon placed at the back ties together the stalks of some large bunches of luscious-looking purple grapes, which fall over the curtain. Inside the bonnet is a *ruche* of green ribbon and white blonde, over which droop one or two bunches of small purple grapes. A fourth variety of the *cueilloir* is of yellow straw, with satin ribbon and muslin strings to match, and having bunches of ripe red gooseberries encircling the crown, with some smaller bunches of the same fruit against a band of black velvet fastened inside the front.

Parasols are very elegantly designed for this season. They are of white marabout, with humming-birds nestling in the down; of light-coloured silk, with a wreath of artificial flowers round the edge; or of black silk, embroidered with the coronet or cypher of the owner. We have seen also a parasol embroidered with galloping racehorses, with small steel chains looped in festoons to metal figures of a horse and jockey, placed at intervals on the rim.

Coffures are worn higher than usual, and we are glad to find plaits are advancing in favour. Curls are worn only with evening dress, and are very small, and fall in clusters to the ears.

Hats of various forms are worn. Those for young ladies are generally of light-coloured straw, trimmed with black velvet, and bunches of red cherries or scarlet flowers in the front. Among the

prettiest shapes, we would mention the Tudor, which has a round flat crown and brim turned up all round—this is always a favourite shape; the diadem, low oval crown, the brim turned up, high in front, and sloping off on each side to the back; and the *Tacht canotier*, square crown and narrow flat brim, like a gentleman's hat, with a much lower crown.

Our Engraving represents a grey robe, over a jupe of the same, trimmed with crossway bands of blue taffeta, with ornaments of white taffeta. The paletot, of the same material, is confined at the waist by a ceinture of blue, and is trimmed with blue buttons; the upper skirt is raised by bands of blue taffeta, narrower than those on the jupe. The bonnet is of the shape *Lamballe*, and is of white straw, with blue strings, and wide streamers of white tulle.

The second figure has a robe of maize foulard with black stripes. The shirt is scalloped at the seams and bottom of the skirt, and has a narrow band of black taffeta. The bodice, of white muslin, is trimmed with white *Cluny* guipure over bands of black velvet, which is so placed as to form a square pelerine, and is continued round the neck and at each end of the sleeves.

The dress of the little girl is of green foulard, having bands of taffeta of a deeper shade than the dress placed round the skirt in two rows, the lower band being edged with a *grelot* fringe. The bodice is made low, with short sleeves, the ceinture long and knotted at the back. A white chemisette of white foulard with green stripes, reaching to the throat, and with long sleeves, is worn with this toilet. The hat is of yellow straw, trimmed with black velvet and a pigeon's wing.

The fourth figure has a robe of white mohair with a square check in very narrow brown stripes. It is trimmed round the skirt and on the seams with a brown *ruche*, which is graduated as it reaches the top of the skirt on each seam. The paletot,



trimmed to correspond, is worn with a band of brown ribbon; it is made with revers, and is worn with a white chemise. The bonnet, of white straw, is trimmed with rose-coloured ribbon.

Among the engravings of fashionable bonnets will be seen a Pamela bonnet of white fancy straw, trimmed with green foliage and bunches of fruit; wide floating strings of rose-coloured ribbon, and narrower of the same shade to tie under the chin.

Another bonnet of the fanchon shape is of straw, trimmed round with a wreath of flowers. Flowers are placed inside, while two wreaths fall over the chignon and one over the strings.

A crape bonnet in plaits has a trimming of flowers and bead fringe. The ribbon strings are fastened under the chin by a bouquet of flowers.

A fanchon bonnet of white taffeta is covered with black figured tulle, with a fall of black lace at the back. A Benoit chain in jet, green leaves, and white flowers adorn this head-dress, which is completed by long, wide, black strings.

PRINCE CHARLES OF HOHENZOLLERN.

THE last European sensation has been the assumption by Prince Charles of Hohenzollern of the government of Roumania at a moment when everybody was wondering what would be the result of the recent revolution and the abdication of the late ruler.

Our readers will see by the Portrait which we publish that this Prince, although comparatively little known, is just the sort of man for what some of the Powers regard as a doubtful or romantic expedition of this kind; and hitherto his adventure, undertaken only on the spur of moderate encouragement, and entirely unaided by any powerful support or armed followers, has been successful. The young Sovereign who has just been so strangely called to the throne of Roumania is the youngest son of Prince Charles Antoine, the head of the house of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, one of the most ancient of the Royal families of Germany, older, indeed, if not more illustrious, than the Hapsburgs. The house divided itself in the twelfth century into two branches, from one of which sprung the Hohenzollerns-Hechingens and the Hohenzollerns-Sigmaringens; and from the other, the Hohenzollern-Brandenburgs, originally simple burgesses of Nuremberg, then electors of Brandenburg, and lastly Kings of Prussia; so that King Frederick William is only a cadet of that house of which he is the acknowledged head by virtue of his sovereignty.

As a member of the Prussian Royal family, Prince Charles is allied to most of the sovereign houses of Europe. He is a Beauharnais by his maternal grandmother, Stéphanie of Baden, the adopted daughter of Napoleon I., and is connected by the Leuchtenburgs to the Imperial family of Russia. His paternal grandmother, Princess Antoinette Marie, was a Murat; and his eldest brother, Leopold, married, in 1861, the Infanta of Portugal. Prince Charles was born on the 20th of April, 1839, and is consequently just twenty-seven years old. After having studied at Dusseldorf, the residence of his family since 1849, and continued his education at Dresden, he entered the Prussian artillery with the rank of Sub-Lieutenant and made the campaign of the duchies, being present at the siege of Duppel, where he was Captain of a cavalry regiment. The time has not yet arrived when he can be spoken of in his new capacity; but he has acted with remarkable independence, and even intrepidity, in going, alone and unaided, to

take upon himself a government such as that of Roumania, even though he was called to it by the voice of the people. His father is noted in the peculiar circles in which he moves for his liberal tendencies—which is, perhaps, not saying a great deal; and his mother combines in her character great sweetness of disposition with firmness. When the deputies appeared at Dusseldorf to offer the crown to her son, she hesitated to give her consent to his acceptance of the honour; but at last yielded, saying, "Gentlemen, I give you my son, and now I will no longer pray that he may be preserved to me, but that he may be upheld in the lofty duties he has undertaken."

The task to which the young Prince was called is, in fact, not only difficult but dangerous. The plebiscite of the 20th of April, sanctioned by the vote of the National Assembly at Bucharest, had unanimously offered him the Crown; but his election was retarded by the declaration of the Conference of the 2nd of May, which nullified the plebiscite as contrary to the thirteenth article of the Convention of 1858, and invited the Assembly to proceed without delay to the election of a native Hospodar. It was a perilous undertaking to accept a charge which involved such a formidable opposition, although some of the European Powers would doubtless be favourable to his assuming the reins of government. On the other hand, he was waited for in Roumania with feverish anxiety, at all events by a large party, although intrigues were concocted in Moldavia for a Russian or Turkish occupation, and considerable forces occupied the banks of the Pruth and the Danube.

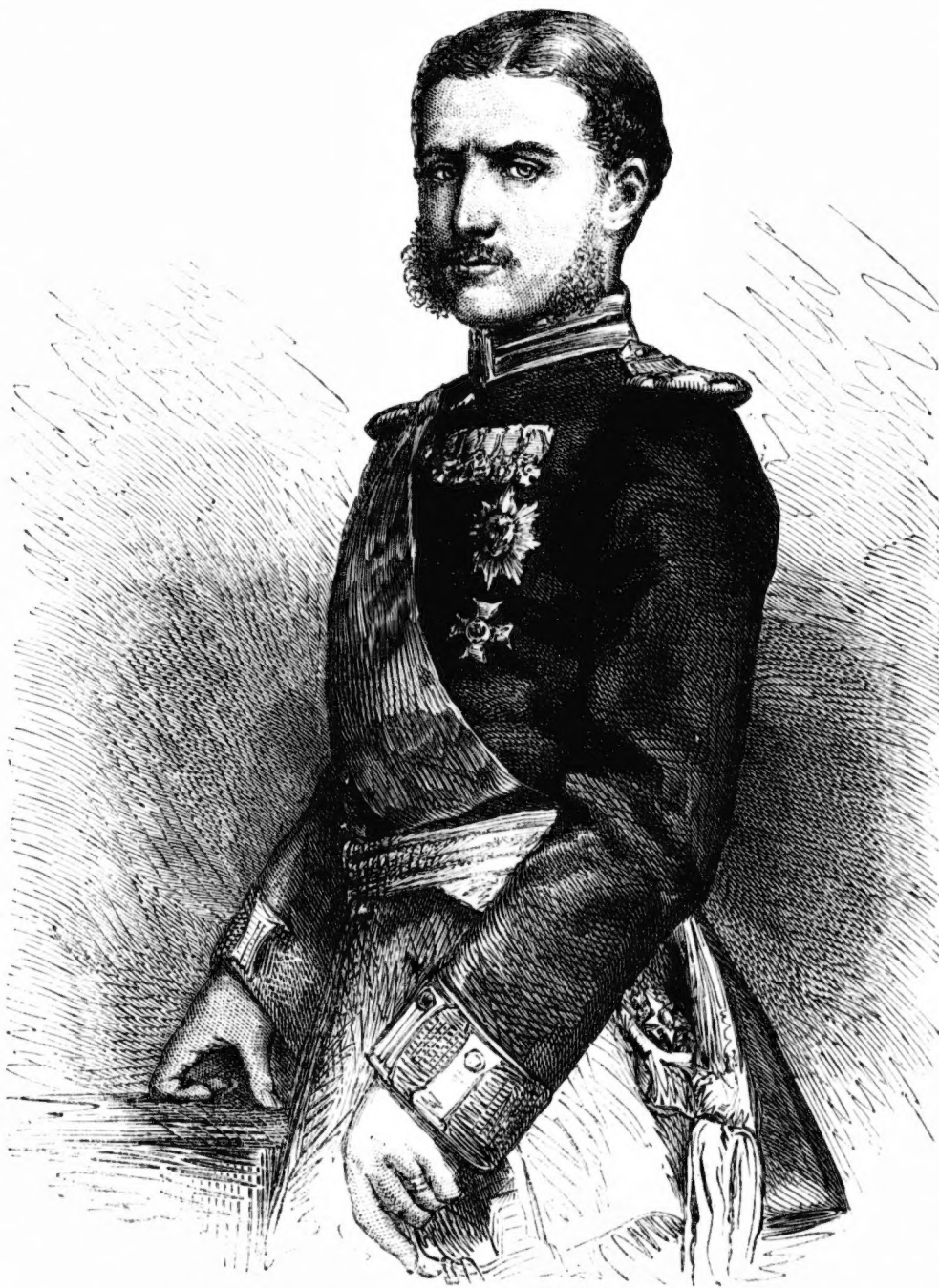
At all events it was necessary for him at once to repair to Roumania, and he chose the shorter and more dangerous route by way of Austria.

The Princes of Hohenzollern have possessed from time immemorial a château on the borders of Lake Constance, and are by this circumstance citizens of Saint Gall. One morning Prince Charles started off for Dusseldorf on horseback, as if with the intention of making a short excursion, and stayed some hours at a château near Bonn, whence he rapidly reached Basle by railway, where he was afterwards joined by his father's secretary, M. de Werner, and a young Wallachian officer, M. Lenche, who were to be the companions of his voyage. The Prince and the secretary were provided with passports from the Confederation, which represented them as Swiss merchants on their way to Odessa. They rapidly crossed Germany as far as Gaserndorf, where the Austrian railway joins the Hungarian branch, and by this means they avoided a dangerous delay at Vienna. To act out their assumed characters they took second-class tickets, M. Lenche passing as a stranger to the other two. At Basiach they entered the Danubian steamer, and on the same evening arrived at Turnu Severinu, the first Wallachian station. M. Lenche disembarked with part of their luggage, which had been booked in his name, and the Prince and his companion landed at the same time, under pretence of looking at the town while the vessel took in coal.

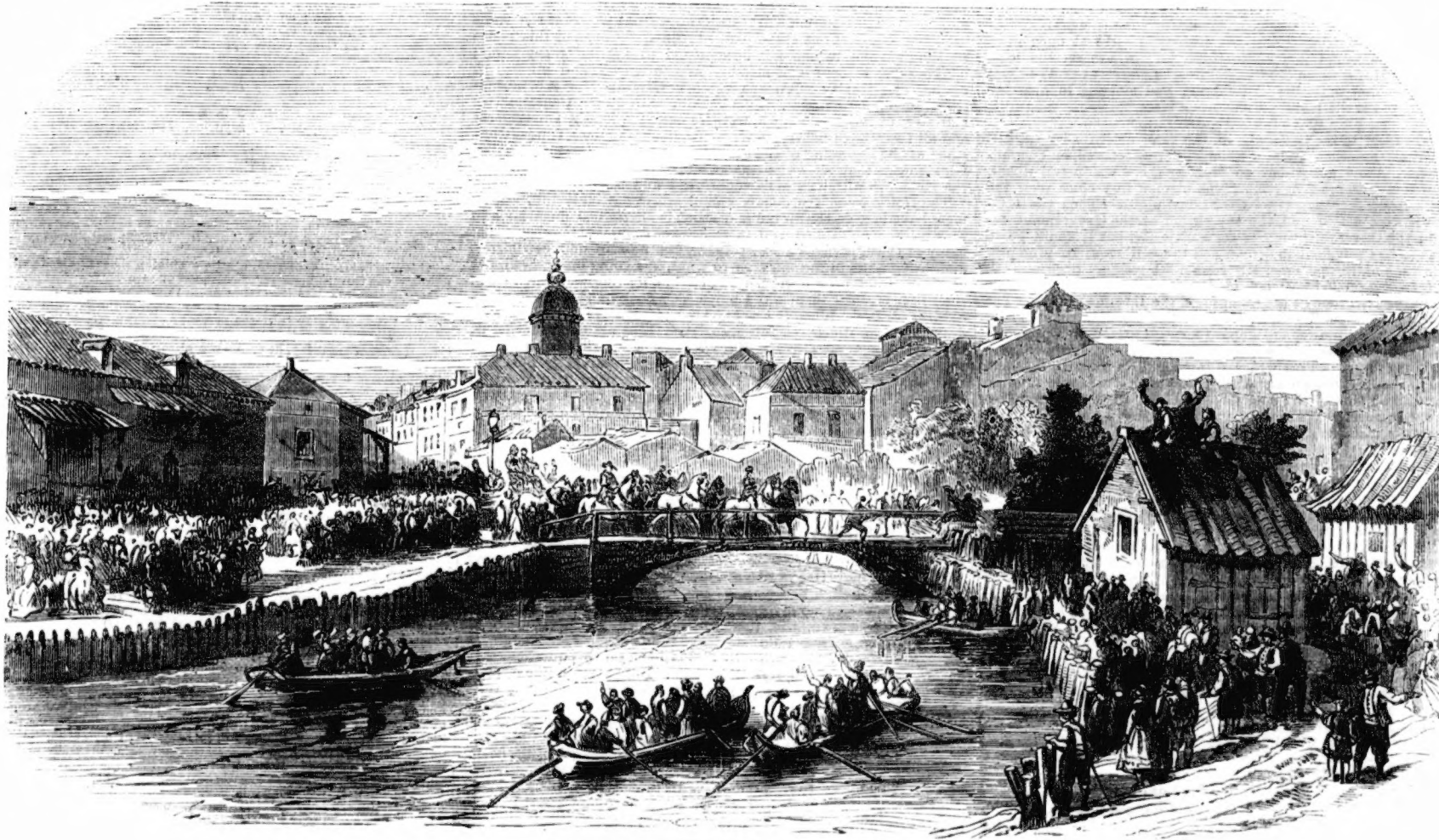
The Prince immediately presented himself at the first Wallachian post. "I am Charles I.," he said to the astonished commandant, and the prefect was hastily sent for, in order to receive some evidence of the Royal identity. The news was immediately telegraphed to Bucharest, where the Government, which was not perfectly acquainted with the latest events, learnt of his acceptance of the Crown and his arrival at the same moment. The news was made known at the Conference, which was entirely thrown into confusion by the intelligence.

This is the second time since 1858 that diplomacy has been put to flight by the vigorous determination of the Roumanians.

On the 22nd of May the Prince made his entry into Bucharest, accompanied by two members of the lieutenantancy, General Goleasco and Colonel Haralambé. The inhabitants manifested an almost extravagant delight at his arrival, and the voyage from Turnu Severinu was one continued ovation; but the result of this quickly-assumed enthusiasm is not altogether certain. Our Engraving represents the arrival of his Majesty at the Bridge of Dumbovitz, in Bucharest.



PRINCE CHARLES OF HOHENZOLLERN, THE HOSPODAR-ELECT OF ROUMANIA.



ENTRY OF PRINCE CHARLES INTO BUCHAREST.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 282.

THE TUMONGONG OF JOHORE, AND WHAT HE SAW.

On Friday night week the Tumongong of Johore came down to the House with his suite, and by order of Mr. Speaker was ushered by one of the officers of the House into the Ambassadors' Gallery. Johore is situated at the southern extremity of the Malay peninsula. Tumongong seems to mean Chief Justice. It is questionable, though, whether this gentleman is more than a titular Tumongong, for he lives at Singapore, where he has a large private property. These Malaysians are good-looking men. They have large heads; faces broad, round, and plump; and, but for the dark olive colour of their skins, might pass through London streets as Englishmen. They visited the House at an unfortunate time, for when they entered the Ambassadors' Gallery that vain, conceited egotist, Mr. Whalley, was on his legs; and the House was, with all its powers of shouting, shrieking, and groaning, attempting to put him down. The case was this. The debate upon the Reform Bill was, on Thursday night, adjourned till Friday. Now, on Friday night, the Government is bound by rule to put "Supply" down as the first order of the day—not so much to get money, but to enable independent members to bring forward motions on going into Supply. Formerly these motions were brought forward on the motion that the House, at its rising, should be adjourned till Monday. This arrangement, however, led to a good deal of inconvenience; and at last it was resolved that the adjournment of the House on Friday should, without motion made, be always till Monday. But, that the independent members might not lose their opportunity of bringing forward their motions, the Government undertook always to place Supply at the top of the list of orders. Thus it was, then, that Mr. Whalley got possession of the House. The question was regularly put that "I do now leave the chair" (that the House might go into Committee of Supply), and thereupon Mr. Whalley rose, as he had a right to do, to bring forward the motion, a notice of which he had on the paper. What that motion was is no matter. Something offensive to Roman Catholics and ineffably stupid every one may be sure. Now, our readers will please to observe that other members had notices of motion on the paper as well as Mr. Whalley; but, at the request of the House, they all waived their rights. Mr. Whalley, though earnestly requested by Sir George Grey to postpone his motion, obstinately refused to do so. Hence the row. It was Whalley against the whole House. "He won't postpone his motion, won't he? We shall see." And as soon as he rose there burst forth from hundreds of throats a storm of halloosings and groanings and other indescribable cries, the like of which, for loudness and long continuance, we scarcely ever heard before. This, then, was what the Tumongong in the gallery saw and heard that night. A little shock-headed, grey-bearded man "wagging his pow," gesticulating with his arms, and talking at the top of his voice, and 500 gentlemen hallooing, roaring, and shrieking to overpower him and put him down. And this scene lasted for three-quarters of an hour, the robed and wigged Speaker sitting calm and apparently unconcerned in his huge canopied chair the while. Before the row was over the Tumongong rose, and, with his suite, swept out of the gallery and departed. And this was all that he saw of the British Parliament. He had, in his Asiatic home, heard of this august assembly, and its awful powers—how it makes our laws, has de-throned monarchs, and what he must certainly know, had abolished the great East India Company and handed over the government of India to the Queen; and when he came to England he resolved, before all things, to see this far-famed House of Commons. And this, and only this, is what he saw. He had interpreters with him, and let us hope that they explained the matter to him, and showed him that this scene is an exception and not the rule. But, failing this, what an idea of the English House of Commons will the Tumongong carry home to Singapore! And what, if he has the pen of a ready writer, like that which Goldsmith in his "Citizen of the World" puts into the hand of Tien-Chi-Altangi, the correspondent of Fum-Hoam, and should publish in a Singapore newspaper his impressions of our English Parliament! After the Tumongong had gone, the row ended in a very curious and unprecedented way. Sir Percy Burrell, a quiet, silent gentleman, who, as far as we recollect, never uttered ten consecutive words in the House before, was suddenly inspired to rise and move that the House be counted. This ridiculous motion was received with loud applause and laughter, and straightway there was a rush of members to the door, hoping, we suppose, to empty the House. They soon, however, saw that this was impossible, and suddenly the tide turned and rushed back again. Meanwhile Mr. Speaker, seeing that matters were becoming desperate, and that if he did not make some move the House would be a mere chaotic mob, shook off his lethargy, and, rising from his seat, declined to count the House, as there were obviously more than forty members; and then, turning to Mr. Whalley, earnestly implored him to accede to the wishes of the House, and allow the reform debate to commence. Such an appeal even Mr. Whalley could not withstand. He at once gave way, and in a few minutes Sir Hugh Cairns was on his legs, addressing a House as quiet and calm as a summer's eve. We could not help wishing that the Tumongong had stopped to hear Sir Hugh, and to see the House in its normal state.

DRAWING THE BADGER.

We now come to the last night of the reform debate, its spirited and eloquent speeches, and its strange, unprecedented, and turbulent finale. At an early hour on Monday there was a full House, and it was easy to see that some great change had come over the members since they dispersed on Friday night. Then the Conservatives were elated and the supporters of the Government depressed; the Government might get a majority, but it would be so small as to be equivalent to defeat, and the bill must be promptly withdrawn, and, in that case, Ministers must resign. Such was the state of feeling on Friday; but on Monday all had changed—now the Conservatives were in the dumps and the Liberals exalted. The cause of the change was this: Captain Hayter, who had so boldly thrown down the gauntlet and stepped forward to lead the Opposition by moving his amendment, was reported shaky and likely to back out of his position. This was the rumour when we went down to the House; how it got about no one could tell. It was said that the gallant Captain denied the soft impeachment. Still everybody believed the rumour. "We are to have no running, I hear," we heard one sporting member say to another. "There's a cross, I learn," said a second; "Hayter's backing out." Nothing, though, was certain—that is to say, nothing official, or rather authoritative, had been announced; and it was decided that some attempts should be made, preliminary to the debate, to draw out of the Government or the gallant Captain some definite statement—"To draw the badger," as the phrase was; and at the proper time Lord Elcho rose to perform that feat. But, though the noble Lord was backed up by several other honourable members, nothing definite could be got; in short, the badger would not be drawn—neither of the badgers. Captain Hayter could say nothing till he had heard the Chancellor of the Exchequer's speech. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had had no official or unofficial communication with the member for Wells; and so the dogs had to retire, leaving the badger to come out when it should suit him so to do. But, though nothing definite could be got out of the Chancellor of the Exchequer or the gallant Captain, something indefinite was obtained from the latter; and, under the circumstances, this was considered to be as good as something definite; and from this time it was deemed all but certain that the amendment would be withdrawn. If the badger could not be drawn, we got a sight of him, and all doubt about his being there vanished.

THE CHIEF ADULLAMITE.

Lord John Manners began the debate, but of his oratory we shall say only this: it was, as usual, pompous, loud, and dreary, full of sound and fury signifying nothing, and it nearly emptied the House. After Lord John came another Lord, Earl Grosvenor, whose oratory is as soft, and mellifluous, and unpretending, as that of Lord John is loud-sounding and pretentious. When it became known that the noble Earl was up, the House speedily filled; not because his Lordship is an attractive speaker, but because he was the leader of the Adullamites, and everybody was anxious to hear from his

own lips what course he meant to take. He did not leave us long in doubt. Amidst loud cheers, he announced that he should support her Majesty's Government. "I might help to defeat and endanger the Government. I do not want to do so." Of course not. That a Grosvenor would aid in overturning a Whig Government when matters came to a pinch, as we say, nobody believed. Courage, then, ye grave and potent seigniors who sit on the Treasury bench! Hayter shaky; Grosvenor seceding from the men of the "Cave"! Your prospects are brightening.

BERNAL OSBORNE.

When Grosvenor sat down, the tide of members was again about to turn towards the door, but was suddenly arrested by the rising in his place, below the gangway, of Bernal Osborne. We have in these papers often had to speak of Mr. Osborne, and sometimes not with approbation. We always appreciated his talents, but have not unfrequently had to complain that they were misapplied. We have never doubted that he is naturally witty, but were often obliged to point out that what he thought wit was mere jocoseness, and that his facts were sometimes untrustworthy, his reasoning illogical, his quotations not to the point, and that generally he seemed to be more ambitious to amuse the House than to instruct it, and to produce merriment rather than conviction. But to the speech which he delivered on Monday night we have little to give but praise. True, some of the faults which we have noticed peeped out here and there; but, on the whole, the speech was a capital speech, and deserved all the applause that it evoked. There was a good deal of jocoseness in it apart from wit, but the jokes were *ad rem*. Of course we had quotations enough, but they were apposite. Those extracts from Mr. Lowe's speeches at Kidderminster went right to the mark, and were as damaging as shots between wind and water. Limited as our space is, we cannot give extracts from this speech, but we must call attention to Mr. Osborne's capital application of the story of Sheridan and the Highlander's breeches. Mr. Lowe, speaking at Kidderminster about the Tories taking to reform and going beyond the Whigs, said that when Sheridan saw a Highlander in a large pair of breeches, he remarked that "Converts were always enthusiastic." "That is true," said Mr. Osborne; "and what a large pair of Tory breeches the right hon. member for Calne has put on!" This is wit, and wit well applied. The effect that this keen home-thrust produced upon the House was a sight to see. To say the House resounded with laughter is to say little. The members on both sides were literally convulsed. Indeed, the laughter was so loud and long-continued that the strangers in the lobby got excited, broke up the ranks in which they had been marshalled by the police, clustered round the door, obstructing the passage, and had to be driven back, not without difficulty, by the A's, into their places and re-formed.

COLERIDGE, GLADSTONE, AND DISRAELI.

Of the other speeches of the evening we can say but little, as the turbulent scene at the end of the debate remains to be described. Mr. Coleridge spoke well, as Mr. Coleridge always does, but scarcely with his usual power. He undertook to grapple with the famous oration delivered by Mr. Lowe—not so much, though, with the arguments of the member for Calne as with his principles, which Mr. Coleridge described (to the astonishment of the Conservatives) as "detestable." A low murmur of disapprobation ran along the benches of the Opposition when this strong word fell from the lips of the learned gentleman; but these groans were at once met by a burst of cheers from the Liberals. Mr. Lowe was not in the House when this shot was fired, or he would scarcely have sat silent and unmoved in his seat. Mr. Gladstone rose about half-past eleven to sum up the case of the Government. He spoke with more than his usual vigour; at times he was even passionate, brought down tumultuous cheers from his followers, and seemed to quell for the time all opposition. Mr. Disraeli followed, and wound up the debate; but, depressed and annoyed by the knowledge that he and his party had been sold, and that victory, which on Friday seemed to be possible, and even probable, was now impossible, he was very dull. He laboured heavily for an hour; no encouraging cheer broke from the ranks behind him, and when he sat down the applause was stunted and not hearty.

FINAL SCENE.

And now for the final scene: and here we shall need the patience and attention of our readers to make this scene intelligible. They will, then, please to note that the original question was "That Mr. Speaker do leave the chair," in order that the House might go into Committee on the bill. To this motion an amendment was moved by Captain Hayter to leave out all the words after "that," in order to insert instead thereof these words:—"This House, while ready to consider the general subject of a redistribution of seats, is of opinion that the system of grouping proposed by her Majesty's Government is neither convenient nor equitable; and that the scheme is otherwise not sufficiently matured to form the basis of a satisfactory measure." The question that Mr. Speaker put was that the words proposed to be left out stand part of the question, and this seems puzzling enough to one not accustomed to Parliamentary forms; but courage, reader: look steadily at the matter, and all will be plain. The real question was whether Captain Hayter's amendment should be carried. The Captain, with all the Conservatives and most of the Adullamites, were for carrying it; the Government and all their loyal adherents were for defeating it. Thus matters stood at the beginning of the evening; at the end Captain Hayter, frightened at the noise he had made, proposed, with the permission of the House, to withdraw his amendment; and then the row began.

The House when the debate closed was exceedingly full. There must have been in the House and about it nearly 600 members, and they were much excited, and in their excitement it is probable that many of them, perhaps most of them, got puzzled and bewildered, and, being quite in the dark as to what was going on—indeed, few of them could hear a word—they could only follow in the ruck of their friends when there was a move, as a flock of sheep follows an old bell wether. When it was known that Hayter wished to withdraw his amendment some enthusiastic Liberals determined that they would, maugre Captain Hayter, force a division upon it, just to show up the weakness of the Conservatives. This did not suit Colonel Taylor's book, and he gave the word of command that when the question came on the Conservatives should leave the House in a body, and his command was obeyed, and then came ugly rush the first, and an ugly rush it was; such a one we never saw before, and we hope never to see such a one again. The members poured out in a torrent. In the narrow gorge of the doorway they got for a time inextricably jammed, and when they did burst through it appeared as if nothing could save the front rank from being thrown down and trampled upon by the hinder. The officials were powerless; the Sergeant-at-Arms, inside, wisely glided out of the course of the stream. The doorkeepers outside slunk back into their boxes lest they should be swept away with the torrent. One of them, indeed, was knocked back into his seat, and for a time had to bear the weight of a member on his knees. There was no division on this question after all; and when this became known, the tide had to turn to meet the next question—viz., "That I do now leave the chair." For, though the Conservatives did not mean to divide even on this question, they meant to debate, and adjourn the debate. But to turn a tide whether of water or of men is not easy; and then came another ugly rush. Again the doorway got jammed, and for some minutes quite impassable. And so it happened that, when the Conservatives and Adullamites did get in, they found that the question had in their absence been put and carried; that the Speaker was out of the chair; the House in Committee on the bill, and, in short, that they were sold again. They meant to rush out of the House when the withdrawal of the amendment was moved, to rush back in time to continue the debate on the original question and adjourn it; but whilst they were struggling back, the Opposition being all absent, the Government got their bill safely landed in Committee, and saved perhaps a week more of talk. The division of 403 "ayes" against 2 "noes," on the question that the chairman do report progress, is unintelligible on any other ground than this, that the illustrious two—or four, including tellers—had lost their heads.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The chief business was the discussion of the Sunday Trading Bill. Various amendments were proposed, and finally there was a division on the motion that the bill do pass. It only found 39 supporters, while 69 voted against it, and therefore the bill was rejected.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MR. WHALLEY.

The House was kept from the reform debate for nearly an hour by a speech of Mr. WHALLEY, who sought to show that Fenianism was caused by Roman Catholicism. A very extraordinary scene was exhibited owing to the pertinacity with which Mr. Whalley persevered in addressing the House against the wishes of the members. In a very full House, containing about 400 members, Sir P. BURRELL moved that the House be counted, and simultaneously three-fourths of the gentlemen present rose from their seats and rushed to the door. A sufficient number remained to prevent the House being counted out, but Sir P. Burrell attained the much-desired object of bringing Mr. Whalley's address to a close; not, however, before the Speaker had made an appeal to Mr. Whalley.

THE REFORM BILLS.

The House then resumed the debate on the Reform Bills. Sir H. CAIRNS led off with a speech in which he echoed the criticisms of Mr. Lowe and all those who had opposed the bills. Mr. AGLAND followed in support of the measure. Mr. C. W. MARTIN, one of the members for Newport, a borough proposed to be grouped, spoke against Captain Hayter's amendment. Mr. KENNARD, the other member for Newport, supported the amendment. The debate was again adjourned.

MONDAY, JUNE 4.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord REDESDALE moved a series of alterations in the standing orders to give effect to the suggestions which he made on a previous occasion in reference to the manner in which railway and other companies are promoted and carried through Parliament. The motion was strongly opposed, and after a long discussion Lord Redesdale withdrew it, giving notice that he should move for a Select Committee to inquire into what amendments in the standing orders are necessary.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

INTENTIONS OF GOVERNMENT.

There was a short and sharp prelude to the reform debate. Lord ELCHO repeated his question as to whether the Government, in case they were successful in defeating Captain Hayter's amendment, intended to withdraw the Distribution of Seats Bill. Mr. HADFIELD wanted to know if the Government had been informed that Captain Hayter intended to withdraw his amendment. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, replying first to Mr. Hadfield, said the Government had had no communication with Captain Hayter. As to Lord Elcho's question, he declined, in effect, to give any answer to it. Sir H. CAIRNS wanted to know if the Government adhered to its resolution not to prorogue Parliament till the bills were either carried or rejected. Again the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER declined to give any answer. Mr. HADFIELD addressed himself to Captain Hayter, and wished to know from him whether he intended to withdraw his motion. Captain HAYTER replied that he could not just then come to a decision. Sir T. BATESON thereupon wanted to know if the Government had been to the gallant Captain with any promises of manipulation of the Distribution of Seats Bill. Captain HAYTER replied emphatically in the negative. Mr. HOBSMAN wanted to know if the Government would stand or fall by the bill. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER replied that they had already said they would, and as yet they had made no change in their intentions.

THE REFORM DEBATE.

The House then passed to the adjourned debate, which was resumed by Lord J. MANNERS, who touched, first, on the effect the two bills would have on the county constituencies, showing by statistics that in many cases they would deprive the rural element of all political power. With regard to the redistribution scheme, he denied that the twenty-six members proposed to be given to the counties would be really county members, any more than Mr. Gladstone, who stood third on the poll for South Lancashire, was a county member; and in exposing the anomalies which would be created by the bill, he mentioned that, while nine boroughs, with a united population of 75,000, would be left with two members each, ten groups would only have one member each, though they contained a population of 122,000.

Lord GROSVENOR, though thinking the Franchise Bill bad and the redistribution scheme unsatisfactory, and intending to oppose much of both in Committee "tooth and nail," advised Captain Hayter to withdraw his amendment, as its success must lead to the fall not merely of the bill, but of the Government; and though he had not much confidence in them on this question, in the present state of European politics, and in the present condition of our finances, it would be a great misfortune if they (particularly Lord Clarendon) were compelled to quit office.

Mr. B. OSBORNE compared reform to Cinderella. A while ago it was despised and rejected by all parties; now the quarrel was which party should patronise it, and probably before the end of the Session it would be relegated to obscurity. The principle of the bill, he asserted, was the reduction of the franchise; and while admitting that the Liberal party had made a mistake in 1859, he exhorted the House not to repeat it by neglecting this opportunity of settling the question. Though averse to the sacrifice of small boroughs (necessary excursions of the Constitution, as he called them), and objecting to the principle of grouping, he urged the House strongly to go into Committee.

Mr. ADDERLEY argued against the bill, as adverse to the principles of 1832, and as involving the entire suppression of the county interest, and, denying that the Opposition had taken up the position of obstructives, he fired the blame of delay on the tactics of the Government.

Mr. GRENFELL contrasted the moderation of the extreme Liberals with the obstinacy of the Conservative opposition, and urged a united attempt to settle the question.

Lord R. MONTAGU argued that some system of plurality of votes was the only mode of adequately representing all the social forces of the country.

The discussion was continued in a very thin House by Mr. Pim, Mr. Walrond, Mr. Wyld, Mr. H. Seymour, Mr. Mitford, and Sir Thomas Bateson.

Mr. COLERIDGE exhorted the House to go into Committee by such a majority as would enable the Government to retain office with dignity, and to pass at least the important portions of the bill this Session. The rest of Mr. Coleridge's speech consisted of a criticism on Mr. Lowe and his recent speeches, the opinions of which, he said, were detestable, marked by a tone of cynical materialism, and utterly irrelevant as applied to a measure which had been accepted by some part of the Liberal party with great reluctance on account of its moderation.

Mr. WHITESIDE expressed a strong opinion that the debate was unreal, and that the Government were not sincere in prosecuting the bill.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER replied to Mr. Whiteside that if all reality had been taken out of the debate it was not the fault of the Government, but was probably more due to the breakdown of certain combinations on which the Opposition had calculated. To vindicate the Government from the charge of delay, he traced the history of the two bills from the beginning, contending that, as the early part of the Session had been occupied in disposing of necessary business, no time had been lost, and that in every step which they had taken the Government had been actuated by a disposition to conciliate and to meet the wishes of the House. With regard to the redistribution scheme, he denied that it had been prepared with precipitation, asserting that the Government had forty-five days to consider it, and, while not disposed to complain of the criticisms of the threatened members, he assured them that the principle of grouping was adopted in mercy, and was intended to mitigate the severity of the sacrifice the public good demanded of them. Adverting to the authority of Sir William Hayter, quoted by his son, he reminded him that Sir William had acquiesced in the bill of 1854, which disfranchised Wells altogether; and, after some remarks on the inflated and exaggerated tone of Mr. Lowe's speech, he defended the bill from the charge of creating anomalies, pointing out that it simply mitigated those which it found in existence, and passed on to consider Mr. Disraeli's scheme. As to his defence of small boroughs, he disputed its accuracy, showing that they did not offer any particular facilities either to merchants, old Indians, or returned colonials, and pointed out that, by his boundary scheme and his enfranchisement of new towns, he would take about 2,000,000 out of the county constituencies, and make them mere collections of landlords and tenants, adding that such a scheme never would be passed by any House of Commons. With regard to the opposition to the bill, he asserted that its grounds were not good in themselves; that, presuming them to be good, they were not sufficient to prevent the House going into Committee, and he complained of the form and terms of the motion. Not a single objection, he maintained, had been made which went to the root of the bill, and which could not be dealt with in Committee; and, after examining the objections to groups, founded on the distances and the want of identity in the towns selected, he reminded the House that the Government had at no time stated the principle of grouping to be vital to the bill. The addition to the Franchise Bill of the Seats Bill—in which the Government, placing themselves in the hands of the House, had acquiesced against their will—had undoubtedly added very greatly to the mass of details which had to be dealt with, and they admitted that a large portion of the redistribution scheme remained open for discussion. The first object, in the opinion of the Government, was the enfranchisement of a large mass of our fellow-countrymen; and this subject they had hoped all parties would approach in a spirit of conciliation. He criticised severely the language and form of the amendment, and protested indignantly against this indirect mode of seeking to defeat the bill, which was a violation of the Earl of Derby's pledge that it should

receive fair play; and, in an eloquent peroration, which was loudly cheered, he protested that this bill was only the application of the principles of 1832, and warned the Opposition that any triumph which they might gain now would recoil with tenfold force on themselves.

Mr. DISRAELI, vindicating the Opposition from the charge of factious obstruction, pointed out that of the three motions by which the progress of the bill had been delayed two had been made from the Ministerial benches, that the principles of two of them had been accepted by the Government—Mr. Gladstone having just abandoned grouping—and the principle of the third (Sir R. Knightley's) had been accepted by Lord J. Russell at the last Reform Bill, in 1860. Without going further into a defence of small boroughs, he repeated that they afforded to many valuable members a means of entering the House, and afforded some compensation for the inadequate representation of the counties. He calculated that eighty-four of these small-borough seats might be said to be supplementary to the representation of the landed interest, and, added to the present number of county members (162), they made the county members 246, and the borough members 250. Of these eighty-four seats, forty-two were disfranchised by the bill. As to the charge of wishing to eliminate the urban elements from the counties, he pointed out that of 11,500,000 of the county inhabitants, only 1,000,000 lived in the unfranchised towns, so that there would still remain a population of 10,000,000 to be dealt with, of which only 2,000,000 were farmers and farmers' labourers. As the Government seemed entirely ignorant of these and other similar facts, he agreed with Lord Grosvenor that they ought to withdraw the bill, to afford themselves time for obtaining further information, and in commenting on Lord Grosvenor's chief reason for not supporting the amendment—confidence in Lord Clarendon—he criticised with great severity Lord Clarendon's conduct before and during the Crimean War and at the Congress of Paris in 1856.

Captain HAYTER announced that, as the object of his motion had been virtually conceded by the Government, and as there was little doubt now that the bill would be withdrawn, he should not persevere with his amendment.

The SPEAKER put the usual question, "Is it your pleasure that the motion be withdrawn?" to which there was a loud response of "No!" and then proceeded to put the amendment, upon which the great mass of the Opposition trooped out of the House to avoid a division, amid the laughter and ironical cheering of the Ministerialists. Strangers were ordered to withdraw, and the door was closed in the usual form; but, on the Speaker putting the question a second time, the amendment was negatived without a dissentient voice. No opposition was offered to the motion that the Speaker leave the chair, and the House went into Committee on the bill amid loud and prolonged cheering.

The preamble having been postponed, Mr. GLADSTONE moved that the Chairman report progress, to which some enthusiastic members below the gangway cried "No!" and continued to challenge Mr. Dodson's decision "The ayes have it," so as to compel a division. This brought back the great bulk of the secession, and the reappearance of prominent members of it, such as Sir E. Lytton, Mr. Lowe, and Mr. Mowbray, was the signal for renewed laughter and ironical cheering.

The motion for reporting progress was carried by 403 to 2.

TUESDAY, JUNE 5.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

LORD CLARENDON AND MR. DISRAELI.

The Earl of CLARENDON complained of the attack which had been made upon him on the previous night, in the House of Commons, by Mr. Disraeli. Most of the charges made against him he could afford to pass over, but there was one which he must notice. It was said that in the Paris Congress of 1856 he entered into a conspiracy to put down the free press of Belgium. He denied that he had done anything of the kind. At the Congress Count Walewski had mentioned that there were journals in Belgium got up by French exiles and preaching assassination, and these might cause misunderstanding between France and Belgium. The Earl of Clarendon said in reply to this that he could not be any party to an attack on the free press of Belgium, but it was the duty of everyone to denounce assassination. He read from the protocol to show that this was what took place, and said if Mr. Disraeli knew of the protocol his charge was unjustifiable; if he did not, it was reckless.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS BILL.

Their Lordships took up the Public Schools Bill, and, after two divisions on clauses, passed it through Committee.

PRINCESS MARY OF CAMBRIDGE.

The LORD CHANCELLOR brought up a Royal Message announcing the approaching marriage of Princess Mary of Cambridge, and expressing assurance that their Lordships would concur in making further provision for her Royal Highness.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CONFERENCE.

General PEEL asked whether it was true that the proposed European congress had been given up.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said he was sorry to say that he must give an answer that was substantially in the affirmative. The first communication made to her Majesty's Government was by a telegraphic message received the previous night from France stating that, in the opinion of the French Government, the conference was at an end, in consequence of an answer from Austria imposing conditions that were regarded as impracticable. Government were now in possession of the Austrian despatch on the subject, and the substance of it was that she required beforehand an assurance that all the Powers who were to take part in the projected conference should be ready to renounce the pursuit of any special or particular interest to the detriment of the general tranquillity. This was explained to mean that it was indispensable that it should be agreed beforehand to exclude from the deliberations of the conference anything that would tend to give to any of the States invited to the meeting any territorial augmentation or increased power. This communication was received by the French Government as equivalent to the refusal of a conference, or as making it impossible; and the English Government agreed in that view of the case. All prospect, therefore, of the meeting of a conference must, he feared, be regarded as at an end.

PRINCESS MARY.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER brought up a Royal Message in reference to the marriage of Princess Mary of Cambridge, and moved that it be taken into consideration on Thursday.

The motion was agreed to.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

REAL ESTATE TESTACY BILL.

Mr. L. KING, in moving the second reading of this bill, explained that its object was to remedy a serious defect in the law in the case of the owners of real property dying intestate, but it did not interfere in the slightest degree with settled estate. The bill proposed that where a man died without a will the same rule should prevail regarding real property as existed with reference to personal. All the great estates of the country were settled and entailed, so that if the bill became law it would not affect the possessions of the aristocracy.

Mr. BERESFORD-HOPE opposed the bill, and reminded the House that the question had been carefully considered seven years ago, when a measure similar to this was thrown out by 271 to 76. In his opinion there was no necessity for any alteration in the law, the system according to which land descended in this country being eminently practical, liberal, and commercial; whereas the adoption of the principle proposed by the bill would tend to the division of landed property into minute proportions and virtually establish a system little better than squatting. He moved as an amendment that the bill be read a second time that day six months.

After a rather long debate the House divided, and the second reading was negatived by 281 to 84.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

CROWN LANDS BILL.

On the motion for the second reading of this bill, Earl NELSON presented a petition from the commoners, freeholders, and residents in the New Forest and its neighbourhood, praying for the rejection of clauses 4 and 5 of the Crown Lands Bill, and to be heard by counsel against the bill and against the said clauses.

Lord REDFORD also presented a petition from a private gentleman, complaining that the bill contained an incorrect assumption of the right of the Crown to the foreshore.

Earl GRANVILLE then moved the second reading of the bill, and briefly explained its provisions.

A discussion followed, and the motion was agreed to without a division.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PRINCESS MARY.

The House then went into Committee on the Royal Message with regard to the proposed marriage of Princess Mary of Cambridge with Prince Teck. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER rose to submit a motion to make further provision for her Royal Highness. He remarked that a sum of £3000 a year had been previously settled on the Princess, and he now proposed that that sum should be increased to £5000.

Mr. DISRAELI seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

THE REFORM BILL.

The House having gone into Committee on this bill, The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER proposed the amendment on the first clause, which stood in his name. The amendment was agreed to.

On the suggestion of Mr. HUNT, clause 3 was postponed.

On clause 3, having reference to the occupation franchise in counties, The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said this was one of the leading provisions of the bill. He observed that it was considered by gentlemen opposite to be adverse to their interests, but he urged that from the information at their command property had its due share in the representation,

What was proposed by the clause under consideration was the completion of the enfranchisement of the middle classes. The persons who would be admitted by the £14 rental would, he contended, at a fair estimate, have an income of £150. The great bulk of them would, properly speaking, be householders, and even taking their income at £100, they were persons belonging to the middle class, whom it was desirable to enfranchise. There was another thing on which considerable stress had been laid. Particular cases had been cited. In South Lancashire, for instance, it was said that the addition by the £14 franchise would be very large, but they must not take the result of one county by itself. The proper way was to take a general view of the case. There was an entire mistake as to the party deductions which had been made. He urged that the county franchise of £12 in Ireland had wrought well, and there was no reason why the £14 rental should not work well in England. It was urged, on the other side, that the franchise should not go lower in counties than the qualification which was necessary to enable a man to serve on a jury; but would they be willing to extend the same principle to boroughs? The enfranchisement proposed by the Government would give over 171,000, while the £20 franchise would cut down that figure to 115,000. Such a reduction would maintain the leading feature of the bill, and would receive the strenuous opposition of the Government.

Lord STANLEY then addressed the Committee. He said he did not intend to reply to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but would conclude by moving the postponement of the clause.

Mr. EGERTON seconded the amendment, and strongly advised the House not to agree to the amount of the franchise for the counties until they had first settled the question of the constituencies.

Mr. BRIGHT warmly condemned the course taken by Lord Stanley as unfair and ungenerous.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER complimented the Opposition, not on their proficiency in the ways of open warfare, but in the arts of ambush. The present amendment was but another obstructive movement. On the part of the Government he would not consent to abandon the bill to the tender mercies of a hostile Opposition who had never yet avowed their real purpose, but would persevere in the course which he had already laid down. The noble Lord affected to doubt that the Redistribution Bill would be persevered with; but he had the word and the honour of the Government pledged to that course, and that ought to be sufficient security for the good faith in which the bill was pressed forward.

The Committee then divided—

For Lord Stanley's amendment	260
Against	287
Majority for the Government	27

The announcement of the numbers was received with loud cheers from the Ministerial side of the House.

Mr. WALPOLE moved that, instead of £14, the clause be amended by the insertion of £20 as the qualification for the county voters.

Mr. VILLIERS combated the amendment, and contended that the Reform Bill of 1832 departed from the principle laid down by Mr. Walpole. The present proposal in the bill of a £14 qualification was intended to admit a class of voters who ought not to be excluded from a county vote.

After some further discussion the Committee divided, when there appeared—

For the motion	297
For the amendment	285
Majority for the clause	14

The announcement was received with loud and repeated cheers. The Chairman was then ordered to report progress, and the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (amid the cries of "Monday! Monday!" from the Opposition) named the following day (Friday) for resuming the consideration of the bill in Committee.



SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1866.

THE COMING WAR.

THE proposal of a European conference has been abandoned, and the chances of peace now depend upon the conciliatory disposition of the litigant Powers. This is but a bastard kind of hope, and the probabilities are that ere many days pass Europe will see the first blood shed in a conflict of which it would be vain to attempt to predict the issues. Austria, Prussia, Italy, and the minor German States are armed to the teeth, the three first-named with the avowed intention of engaging in war, and the small independent Powers in the hope of maintaining neutrality. That, too, we fear, will prove a bastard hope. When Austria and Prussia enter the field of armed conflict, it is in vain for their smaller neighbours to try to keep out of the fray. Indeed, it seems probable that Saxony, no direct party to the quarrel, will be the scene of at least a portion of the campaign which seems all but inevitable, and that the Sovereign and people of that little kingdom, as well as those of other States, will have to suffer for crimes which are none of their perpetrating. In the background stand France and Russia, both ostensibly seeking peace, but both prepared for war; and neither, it is alleged, greatly concerned to prevent its occurrence. France, it is supposed, favours Prussia and Italy, while Russia is believed to support the Kaiser. Should, as is probable, the armies of all these Powers ultimately meet in conflict, the shock will be one of the most tremendous that has ever shaken Europe or the world.

One of the most remarkable things in connection with the coming war is that, though, sooner or later, every European country may be drawn into the struggle, it does not at the present moment affect England in any manner. It would be difficult to imagine a conflict of some magnitude in which English people could take less interest. Yet there must be something to fight about—there must be a right and a wrong in the quarrel; and no sooner will the first blows be struck than public opinion in this country will pronounce itself on one side or the other. So little principle, however, or rather, such contradictory principles, are involved, that until the war begins, and until our sympathies are affected by the chivalry or want of chivalry that may be displayed, there will not be many Englishmen who will particularly care whether Austria beats Prussia or Prussia Austria.

In this triangular duel there is one combatant to whom we shall all wish success; we mean, of course, Italy. Although the Italians are not entering into war in a very noble manner, and although the Venetians, as far as we know, have nothing to complain of beyond the one great grievance that they are governed by foreigners, the immense majority of the English people will, undoubtedly, sympathise with Italy, and will consider the result of the war fortunate indeed if it include the liberation of Venetia. We should have more respect, no doubt, for the Italians if, instead of counting upon Prussia, they were to fight their own battle with Austria unaided. But, on the other hand, they have proclaimed so often and

so constantly their intention to profit by the first opportunity of attacking Austria under advantageous circumstances that they are, at least, consistent in the policy they are now pursuing. To the great mass of Englishmen, it is a matter of very little importance whether Holstein remain ultimately in the hands of Austria or of Prussia; but there is not a man among us whose heart will not beat in sympathy with the Italians when their endeavour to free Venetia commences.

But, natural and admirable as the efforts of the Venetians may be, it is difficult all the same not to feel some little pity for Austria, who is, perhaps, about to lose one of her fine provinces, and who is not accused, even by the Italians themselves, of having misgoverned it. It is so far to the honour of the Venetians that they have brought no specific charges against the Austrians. They simply say that they desire to link their fate to that of Italy; and, if Austria ruled them in the mildest and most conciliatory manner possible, they would object to its domination all the same, on the mere ground that it is the domination of a foreign Power. When the rising in Venetia takes place an old principle and a new will be seen in conflict—the principle of treaties and the principle of nationality. Technically speaking, nothing can be more legitimate than Austria's title to Venetia; but greater by far than the law of treaties is the natural law, by which every country has the right to dispose of its own fate.

THE STRAND UNION WORKHOUSE.

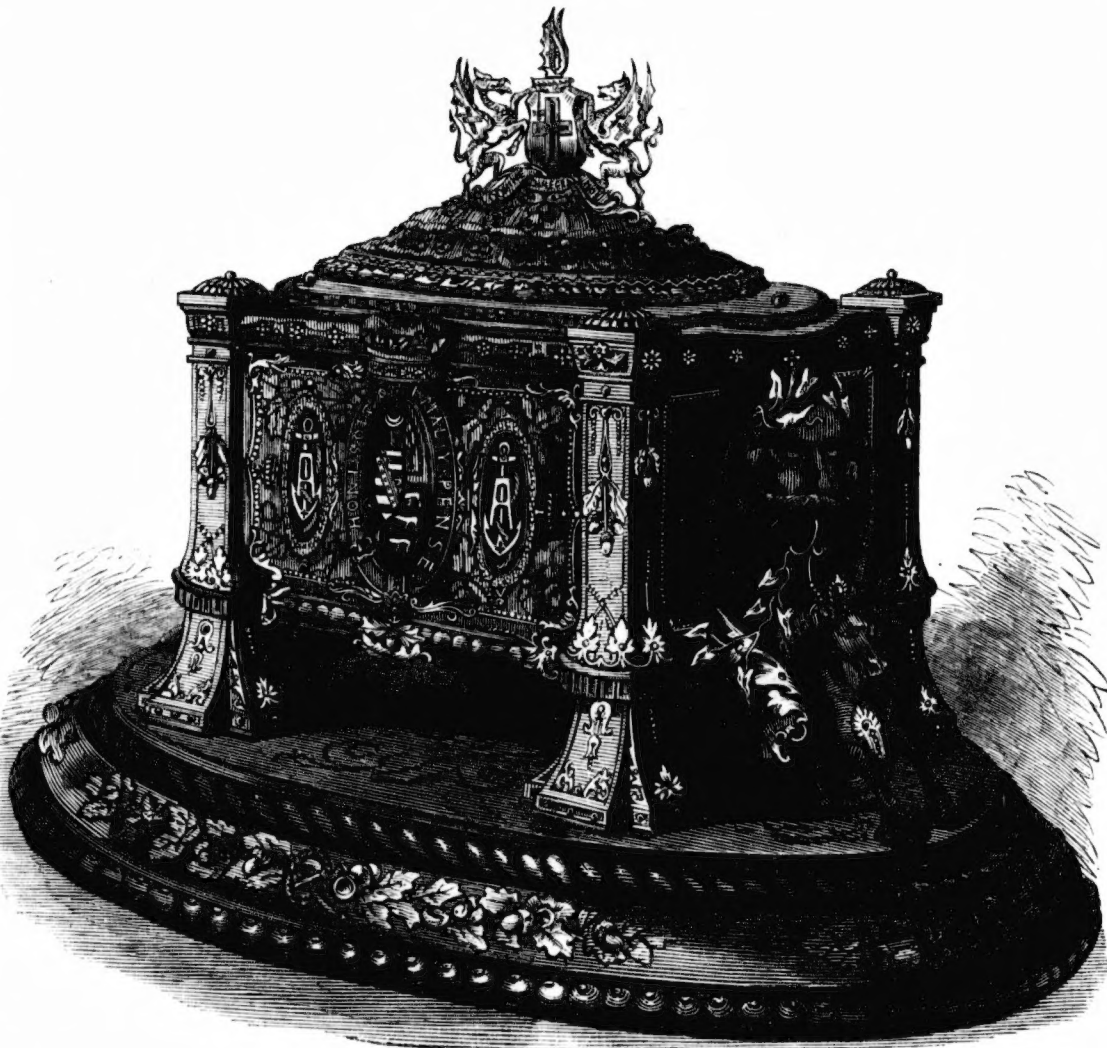
ONE might travestie Mr. Mill's dictum, delivered a few evenings ago in the House of Commons, that the characteristic of the Conservative mind was stupidity, and say that the embodiment of stupidity is the vestryman, and that he supplements his stupidity by cruelty. The investigation of the state of the Strand Union Workhouse—or rather infirmary, for, out of an average of 549 inmates, only sixty-seven were able-bodied, all the rest being sick or infirm—has disclosed a state of things which, although known previously to a portion of the public, must startle all whose avocations or curiosity has not made them acquainted with the horrors of workhouse management. The house was much too small for the number of inmates crowded within it; classification was impossible; sick paupers were scattered about in all the wards, irrespective of the nature of their own ailments or of those among whom they were thrust; there were until lately no paid nurses, and the pauper nurses, male and female, were ignorant, incapable, and drunken; the washing was badly done, unless the pauper laundry-women were bribed with drink or other things to do it properly, and the consequence was that these laundry-women were often intoxicated; the children's milk was stolen by the nurses, and sold; beer, spirits, wine, and other luxuries were trafficked in, stolen, or otherwise misappropriated; the medicines prescribed were placed in the hands of pauper attendants who could not read the labels on the bottles, and were administered indiscriminately, without regard to their nature or of the diseases they were intended to cure; the sick were neglected in every possible way, and one, at least, appears to have died in consequence; mesenteric disease—inflammation of the intestines—was prevalent among the children; and, altogether, a chapter of horrors was disclosed which might well appal the most callous. All this came to light because a professional nurse, who had been hired to superintend the nursing attendants, could not bear to see such things done, and made known the facts to Lord Carnarvon, President of the Society for Improving Workhouse Infirmarys, who communicated with the Poor-Law Board, by whom the inquiry was ordered.

So much for the details brought to light. But what shall we say of the conduct of the guardians who permitted—nay, enforced—such a state of things, and who could laugh and make merry over the details of miseries caused by their own delinquencies! The London guardians, at a meeting in St. James's Hall lately, entered their protest against the proposal to disassociate pauper infirmarys from workhouses as a scheme subversive of that idol of the vestry mind—local self-government. But is local self-government—whatever may be its value in other respects—to be maintained when its fruits are such as those disclosed in the Strand Union investigation? If local self-government be capable of nothing better than such shameful mismanagement—such gross cruelty—then, the sooner local self-government and local self-governors are subverted the better.

The conduct of the guardians during the inquiry, too, was heartless and disgraceful in the extreme. One of these gentlemen, while the doctor was describing the prevalence of mesenteric disease among the infants in the workhouse, wanted to know if mesenteric disease was something to eat! Another guardian, when the medical officer spoke of a proposed male nurse as ill, pale, and thin, suggested that he was "one of Pharaoh's lean kine!" And the chairman, when it was contended that 1000 cubic feet of air—just half what the Fever Hospital allows—was necessary to each sick person, and that a day as well as a night ward was desirable, remarked that he supposed drawing-rooms were wanted for the sick paupers! Can the force of ignorance, folly, stupidity, and heartlessness further go than this? And is it to be endured that a system under which feelings like these are engendered, and such enormities as those exposed in the Strand Union inquiry are perpetrated, shall be continued, in order that guardians and vestrymen may glorify themselves and mouth about local self-government? Faugh! Away with the whole absurd and useless system, and with the stolid stupidity by which it is defended.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S CITY CASKET.

THE casket in which the freedom of the city of London was presented on Thursday to his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh is from a design by the same artist who wrought out the elaborate casket of gold presented to the Prince of Wales on the occasion of his marriage. In this instance, however, the old tradition of having the box entirely of gold has been departed from; for the Common Council decided that it should be emblematical of the great profession to which his Royal Highness belongs. It was therefore determined that the casket should be of oak, carved from a beam of the old roof recently removed from Guildhall. There was, we understand, considerable competition among the principal jewellers for the honour of making this fine work of art, but Mr. Benson's design was selected. The casket is about 16 in. long by 10 in. high, oval in shape, and in the cinque-cento style. It is difficult to describe the minute tracery of carved work, or the fine gold ornaments, in high relief, with which all parts of it are covered. A superb gold and enamelled ornament, forming the City arms, surmounts the apex of the casket, and in the centre (in front), on an enamelled gold panel, the Prince's arms are blazoned in colours; two smaller panels of dark blue, on each side, contain the Prince's monogram, with the Admiralty anchor. On the back of the box, in a rich gold framework, small raised letters of pure gold, on blue enamel, form the following inscription:—"Phillips, Mayor. Presented by the Corporation of London, with the freedom of the City, to his Royal Highness Prince Alfred, Thursday, 7th June, 1866." On the inside of the lid, on a chased gold panel, is engraved, "This casket is carved from the oak taken from the old roof of Guildhall." On the outside, at each end, are beautifully carved masks; and between the tripodal supports of oak and gold, on which the casket rests, are winged seahorses, exquisitely carved and enriched. It is impossible in a mere description to convey an adequate idea of its general effect—of the rich coloured contrasts which the dark oak, the enamelled plaques, and the tinted gold ornaments afford. All its cornices are of gold, with alternate wreaths of oak-leaves and acorns; and, altogether, more than 30 oz. of pure gold are employed in these decorations alone. The oak carvings are by Mr. Rogers.



CASKET IN WHICH THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY WAS PRESENTED TO THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH.

THE WYMERING MAY FETE.

THE popularity of the fête annually given by the Vicar of Wymering to his parishioners and a large number of residents in the locality was sufficiently attested by the crowd of visitors to the beautiful grounds of Wymering House on Tuesday, the 29th ult. The fête, which is always held during the latter part of the month of "merrie May," is looked forward to by hundreds with pleasurable anticipation, and while many of these do not sympathise with the rev. gentleman's well-known opinions on religious matters, yet all properly appreciate the

kindness of heart by which he is prompted to minister to the pleasure and enjoyment of his numerous guests.

The proceedings commenced, as usual, with morning choral service in Wymering church, which was crowded to excess. At the conclusion of the service a procession, consisting of the school children, with their banners, headed by the clergy and choir, with the handsome church banners, moved from the sacred edifice to the grounds of Wymering House, chanting the 68th Psalm, and took up a position within the inclosure, beneath the wide-spreading branches of the noble cedar that adorns the grounds. The Vicar, who wore a biretta, surplice, and green silk stole, richly ornamented, read some prayers, followed by a hymn, which was sung by the choir and school children. The rev. gentleman having delivered an address to the assembled company, the clergy, choristers, schoolchildren, &c., retired. After a short time the May Queen, attended by her maids of honour, all very prettily attired, and a number of Cavaliers and Roundheads, the latter in grotesque masks and costumes, made their appearance. The ceremony of crowning the May Queen was performed by the Vicar. Her Majesty is chosen by the Vicar out of the first class in the national schools, with the vote of her own school companions, for her good conduct, while her name is placed year by year on an oak tablet in the school-room. The May Queen this year is Caroline M'Laren. At the conclusion of the ceremony of consecration the Roundheads expressed by vulgar jeers their dissatisfaction; which, being resented by the Cavaliers, produced a conflict, which ended in the utter discomfiture of the Puritans. Among the latter were "John Bright" and "Anti-Ritualist," the representative of the former wearing a low-crowned hat and an eyeglass; while the latter had a most cadaverous mask, and, of course, looked a very lugubrious, doleful individual. The mock combat was very sharp and decisive, resulting in Cromwell being slain and John Bright seriously wounded. "The Roundheads' Chorus" and "The Cavaliers' Chorus" (from the pen of Mr. H. Brett, of Porchester) were sung during the progress of the burlesque, which appeared to afford much amusement to the by-standers. Cheers were given for the Queen of the May, the Vicar, and the Bishop, followed by a groan for "Anti-Ritualist." The band of the 31st Regiment, under the direction of



CROWNING THE MAY QUEEN AT WYMERING.

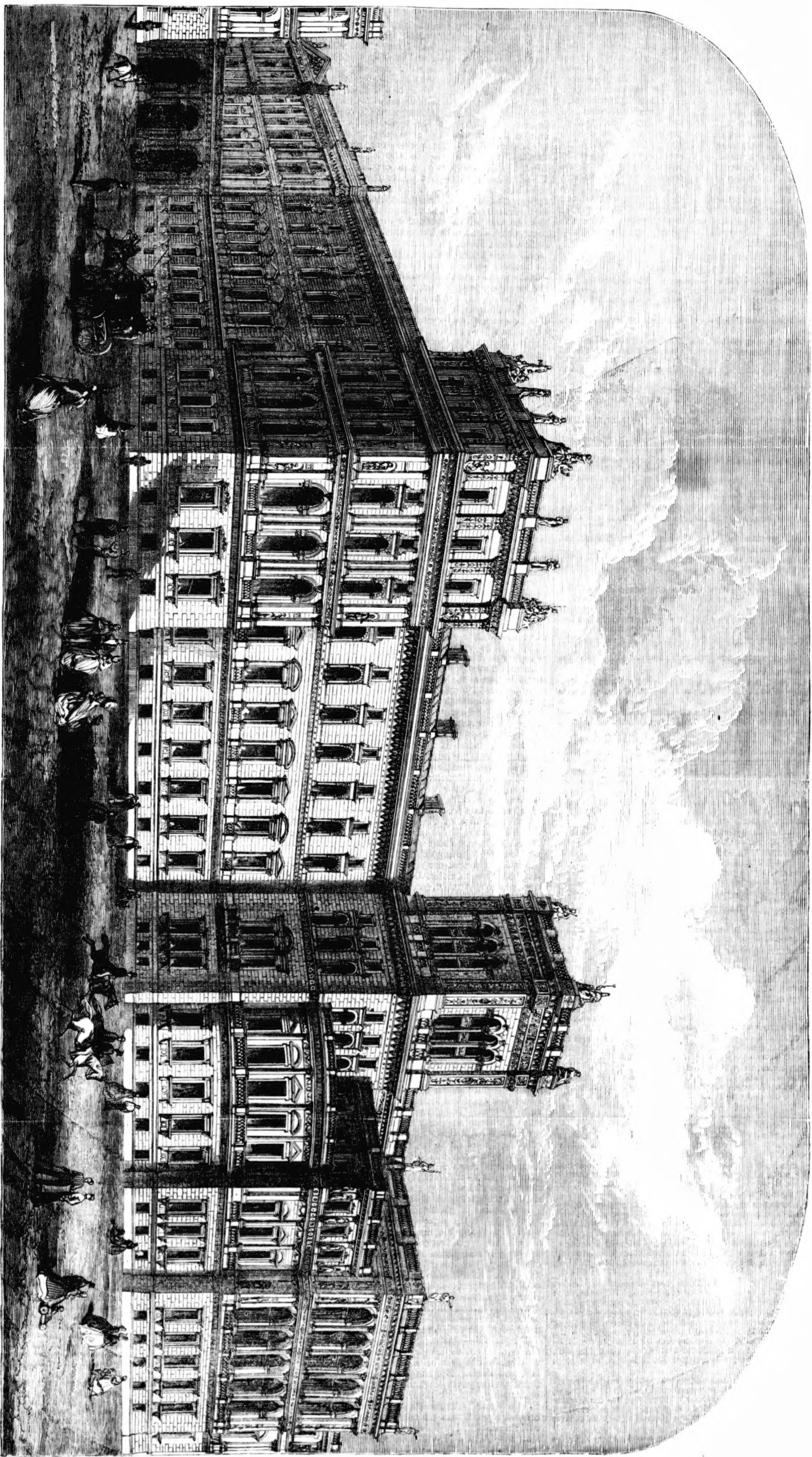
Mr. Dettlich, the bandmaster, was present, and played some choice selections at intervals during the day. "Punch and Judy" was a great source of amusement, not only to juveniles, but to those of larger growth, and various rustic games took place during the afternoon. At 1.30 the school children were provided with dinner, and subsequently their parents and

other parishioners were similarly entertained. Luncheon was supplied to the visitors during the afternoon. At 6.30 evensong was celebrated in the church, and the festivities were brought to a close with a supper in Wymering grounds for those working men who could not attend at an earlier hour.

THE NEW FOREIGN OFFICE.

We this week present our readers with an Engraving of the new Foreign Office, which has just been completed at Whitehall, Westminster. This edifice forms one of a series designed to accommodate those engaged

in conducting the public business of the nation. These buildings are to include, besides the one shown in our Engraving, offices for the Colonial, the War, and other departments; and it will be recollected that, some years ago, a keen competition among architects took place for the honour of furnishing the plans. The designs



THE NEW FOREIGN OFFICE, WESTMINSTER.

SHREWSBURY SHOW.

This ancient piquet, the only one of its kind remaining in England, with the exception of that at Coventry, took place at Shrewsbury, on Monday. Originally a solemn fast-day, held under the auspices of the Church of Rome for the observance of the festival of Corpus Christi, it became, after the Reformation, a day on which the various guilds of tradesmen walked through the town in procession to Kingsland (a piece of high ground overlooking the town from the south side of the river), and there feasted them-

selves and their friends. When these guilds were broken up the managers of the show sought to perpetuate their memory by arranging in a procession a number of fantastically-dressed persons, who assumed characters that have from time immemorial been locally accepted as types of the various trades—though why the guild of bricklayers and builders should be typified by King Henry VIII., and wherefore the Black Prince should precede the combined guilds of hatters and cabinetmakers, are among the things not generally known. The show proves a very

powerful attraction to excursionists, not only in the immediate district, but from distant towns, and heavy trains from Birmingham, Liverpool, and Manchester, brought their living freight to mingle with the rural population that came pouring into the town from an early hour from all points of approach. The procession was advertised to start from the Market-square at twelve o'clock, but it was half an hour later before the music struck up, and, leading the van came the band of Wombwell's menagerie, drawn in a waggon

and models sent in were exhibited to the public, and those adopted were selected by the committee appointed for the purpose, at the instigation of the late Lord Palmerston, who induced his colleagues to prefer a modification of the Gothic style. This decision induced a good deal of controversy at the time, and it was contended that all forms of Gothic were unsuited for such buildings; but the decision was adhered to, and the erection shown in our Engraving is the result.

by an elephant and three camels. Then followed a horseman, clad in a coat of many colours, presumed to be the herald. After him, followed in each case by a band of music and a body of "tradesmen," came Crispin and Crispianus, representing the shoemakers (Crispianus, by the way, dressed in the uniform of a general officer in the British Army); Edward VI. and the shearmen; a little girl in flesh-tights and gauze wings, representing Cupid, behind whom walked the tailors; a horseman with a hatchet on his shoulder, and the butchers; Henry VIII. and the bricklayers and builders; the Black Prince and the hatters and cabinetmakers; Queen Elizabeth (in a low body, bare arms, and on horseback) and the hairdressers and bakers; Vulcan, in chain armour, and the smiths and ironmongers; Queen Catherine (in white kid gloves, and seated in a dog-cart) and the flaxdressers; and, more elaborately got up than all, Sir Peter Paul Rubens, seated on a waggon, before a half-finished painting, with a palette on his left thumb and brush in his right hand, which ever and anon he rubbed impartially over the palette and applied to the canvas. He was the property of the painters and printers. In this order the procession paraded through the chief streets of the town on their way to Kingsland, where the real business of the show commences. This large plot of land was covered with tents and booths of every variety of the itinerant traders who frequent races and fairs, and an immense business was carried on throughout the day with the hungry and thirsty crowd that followed the procession.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN left Clifden on Tuesday evening for Windsor Castle. On Wednesday morning her Majesty travelled by special train to London, and in the afternoon held a Court at Buckingham Palace, which was brilliantly attended.

THE PRINCE OF WALES went to Colchester on Tuesday and reviewed the 11th Hussars.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH visited the City on Tuesday and was made free of the Merchant Taylors' Company. After the ceremony his Royal Highness took luncheon with the officers of the company. On Thursday the freedom of the City was formally conferred upon his Royal Highness at Guildhall.

THE DOWAGER LADY THRUO, it seems, has not bequeathed to her Royal Highness Princess Mary of Cambridge the whole of her fortune and the house in Eaton-square, as previously reported.

CAPTAIN HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, R.N., has accepted the office of Commodore of the Royal Albert Yacht Club. His Royal Highness will reside at Clarence House, St. James's, as soon as the mansion is in a thorough state of repair.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON, it is stated, has written to the Emperor Maximilian, asking him to give over the administration of the Mexican Customs to the French authorities, as a guarantee for the payment of the interest on the three per cent loan, and adding that unless this is done it will be necessary to recall the French troops.

ADMIRAL DENMAN, in his despatch on the bombardment of Valparaiso, formally denies that the American Commodore asked him to resist the bombardment.

THE ABYSSINIAN PRISONERS have long since set out for the coast, and are soon expected to arrive in Egypt.

THE POPULATION OF ST. PETERSBURG, according to the census taken this year, was 539,122, of which number 313,443 were men and 225,679 women.

THE COFFIN which contains the mortal remains of Gustave III. requiring repairs, was recently opened in presence of the King and Queen of Sweden. The face of the deceased was found to be in perfect preservation.

THE GROUND RECLAIMED FROM THE THAMES by the embankment immediately beyond the Temple Gardens has been given to the Benchers.

THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT has decided on raising the strength of the army to 85,000 men.

THE FLAGS of the Italian volunteers bear on one side the Roman she wolf and on the other the lion of St. Mark.

KOSSUTH has, it is said, received a great number of invitations from Hungarians to put himself at the head of a revolution in Hungary in case war breaks out.

MR. GALE, the blind man who discovered a process for making gunpowder incombustible, has invented a revolving rifle which will fire one hundred bullets a minute.

A MONUMENT is about to be erected at Gettysburg, United States, where one of the most bloody battles of the civil war was fought. It will be 23 ft. square at the base and 55 ft. high.

CHOLERA is reported to have broken out amongst the pilgrims returning from Mecca. There is also a great mortality amongst the Egyptian soldiers.

THE YORKSHIRE ART AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION, at York, is to be opened in July. During its continuance the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge, who are to attend the volunteer review at the ancient city during the autumn, are expected to visit the exhibition.

M. DE ROTHSCHILD has, we hear from Paris, refused to give Austria a credit of five millions of francs, which was asked for by Prince Metternich on behalf of his Government.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL EYRE MASSEY, of her Majesty's 95th Regiment, has been seriously injured by a tiger while shooting in Upper Scinde. Directly afterwards he had a narrow escape of being burnt to death, by the grass in the jungle catching fire; and subsequently, while being conveyed home, he was nearly drowned!

GIGANTIC OMNIBUSES, on a new model, have been constructed in Paris, specially for horse-races and other out-door sights. They are so contrived that upwards of fifty persons can be seated on the roof, and constitute a kind of travelling grand stand.

A FAMILY FETE of great rarity has just been celebrated at Olmitz (Moravia), in honour of M. Wigrill, a landed proprietor, and his wife, whose united ages amounted to just 200 years, the husband being 103 and the wife 97. They were married on May 25, 1791, and celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of their union.

MR. HOWARD PAUL organised a concert, a few days since, at the Gasthof, on the summit of the Drachenfels, on the Rhine. It was the first entertainment of the kind ever given in this remote locality of Rhenish-Prussia, and was regarded as a novelty by the travellers who attended it.

REAR-ADMIRAL CLARK died on Saturday forenoon, at his residence, Longhaugh, near Galashiels, in his seventy-first year. He had seen much active service, but only obtained his grade as Admiral in 1865.

THE ETON COMMEMORATION of the birthday of George III., the famous 4th of June, was kept, on Monday, with the usual speeches, dinner, boat procession, and fireworks. A large number of the nobility and gentry were present. Amongst the company were the Archbishop of Dublin and the Bishop of Oxford.

THE REV. CANON DALTON (Roman Catholic), who has been on a mission to Spain to collect subscriptions for a cathedral to be built in London to the memory of the late Cardinal Wiseman, announces from Madrid that his mission, "though attended with many pleasures," has been a failure. Canon Dalton purposes, therefore, to return at once to England.

MR. SPURGEON, preaching on theological panics, exclaimed, "Never be afraid, my brethren; truth will bear threshing, and lose nothing but the husk which surrounded it. Good will come out of evil. Shake away, Sir! Shake away! Not one grain of wheat will fall to the ground."

THE AMERICAN CONGRESS has just passed a bill which empowers thirty-two gentlemen to make a ship canal around the Falls of Niagara, 100 ft. wide and 14 ft. deep, which will connect the St. Lawrence with all the great lakes. The canal must be begun within one year, and completed before May, 1870.

AT GUILDHALL, on Tuesday, while workmen were engaged in making preparations for the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh, a scaffold gave way, and several men fell from a considerable height to the ground. Many of them sustained serious fractures.

ONE THOUSAND AND FIFTY-SEVEN DOGS were drowned at Belfast during last month. This is the report of the sanitary inspector, who appears to have more trouble with dead dogs than with his legitimate duty. The hauling of these dogs out of the water and their interment cost £2 7s. 9d.

M. ROUHER is said to have proposed to M. de Lamartine a pension of 40,000fr. for life, which should be inserted in the budget, subject to the approval of the Legislative body. In consideration of this pension M. de Lamartine would have to make over to the State all his assets and liabilities. Lamartine has declined this proposal, and intends, it is said, to settle in Sicily.

AT MADRID, on the night of the 24th ult., an attempt was made by nearly the whole of the garrison to make a pronouncement, which it was hoped would be supported by a popular insurrection. Fortunately for the Government, it received timely information of the conspiracy, which it prevented from assuming a serious character by immediately arresting a great number of officers who were implicated in the affair.

TWO FREE CHURCH MINISTERS, from parishes not far apart, drove to within a short distance of a tollbar in Inverness-shire, approaching from opposite directions. Having stopped their gigs, the ministers got out and walked through the tollbar, when each ascended the other's vehicle and drove away, to repeat the same dexterous manoeuvre on the Monday following, to the amazement as well as the amusement of the tollkeeper, who found himself thus balked of two tolls.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

A good deal of remark has been occasioned within the last few days by some observations of an evening contemporary of yours upon the ignorance of street geography exhibited by London cabmen; and not a few very remarkable instances have been related in my hearing. As I cannot vouch for the accuracy of these stories, I shall not repeat them; but I may relate what actually occurred to myself. On the evening of Thursday, the 31st ult.—the Ascot Cup day—which, as every one will remember, was a terribly rainy night, I got into a hansom cab at the Fleet-street corner of Chancery-lane, with the view of being driven to a well-known district of Islington. My first difficulty with Jarvey was, that he did not know the neighbourhood in question. Consequently, I directed him to drive to the nearest point that he did know. On the way I made him take one or two "short cuts"; but any interference with the course of the drive did not please my charioteer, so he slammed to the lid of the hole in the cab-roof, refused to listen to what I said, and drove in a contrary direction to that which I had ordered him—that is, he turned to the left when I had told him to go to the right. After proceeding for some time, he appeared to have completely lost himself, and then appealed to me for instructions. On taking an observation of our position, I found that he was within about 200 yards of my destination, but on a route which would take him past it. I therefore directed him to turn back a short distance and take the first cross street on his left, which would have brought him straight to where I wanted to go. Well, he turned his horse's head down the said cross street, but not a step further would he go. I then tried him with another place of note in the neighbourhood. That, too, he did not know. Next I wished to leave the cab, pay the fare, and find my way on foot. This he would not allow; he would do nothing but drive me to the police station. To this I consented, as the easiest way of getting rid of an ignorant, obstinate, stupid fellow; but, instead of taking me to the nearest station, that in Upper-street, Islington, which was close at hand, he insisted on going back to the one in what used to be called Bagnigge-wells-road, two thirds of the distance to the spot where I had originally hired him. Of course, on stating the case to the officer on duty, the cabman was told he had been all wrong and had acted improperly in refusing to obey directions, in bringing me to a police station at all, and in taking me to the wrong one. Being unwilling to again venture on such a night in charge of such a guide, I discharged him, paid his fare (which, perhaps, I ought not to have done), and took another cab. My experience shows how true the remarks of your contemporary are on the subject of cabmen's real or affected ignorance of the streets of London, and mine is not an isolated case. Surely some test of fitness for the duty they undertake should be exacted from men who have it in their power to inflict serious inconvenience and annoyance on the public by their stupidity—or worse. I observe that cabmen generally resent and disregard any attempts to shorten the distance to be traversed, because, I suppose, they may thereby lose an opportunity of exacting an additional sixpence of fare.

A stage-coach now runs regularly between London and Brighton. I became most pleasantly aware of the fact last Saturday, when upon a ramble I found myself at Reigate, opposite the White Hart. I was trying to embody in imagination a strange scene of the times of Old King George III. A regiment of soldiers had here halted for refreshment. The Captain had taken his drink and had paid for it with a bad half-crown. The landlord, a Mr. Poor, vainly expostulated. The soldiers were ordered to march. The landlord came to the door and shouted after the officer something to the effect that he was a sneaking rogue. The officer instantly turned, rushed with drawn sword back into the inn, pursued unhappy Mr. Poor into his refuge in the pantry, and then there stabbed and slew him before the eyes of his shrieking wife and daughters. A great uproar followed. The soldiers strove to bear away their leader, but were beaten back and overpowered by the "Holmesdale men," unarmed as these were. The murderer was hanged. While meditating upon this reminiscence, I was startled by a real stage-coach, bearing the appropriate name of "Old Times," which pulled up at the hostelry door. It was a pleasant sight. "Let's gie'm three cheers when they start," exclaimed a butcher, one of a crowd who assembled as by magic. The cheers were duly and lustily given. I envied those coach passengers as I returned by rail to town.

Mr. Walter Macfarren's "pianoforte recital," at Willis's Rooms, on Saturday morning last, was attended by a crowded audience. He played selections from Mozart, Beethoven, and Sterndale Bennett, as well as others of his own composition; among the latter a "second tarantella" was warmly encored. Mr. Macfarren was assisted by Mdme. Parepa, who sang a scena and aria by Beethoven, and Ganz's "Nightingale's trill."

Mrs. John Macfarren gave her second "Morning at the Piano-forte" this season, at St. James's Hall, on Tuesday last. These performances consisted of solo pieces on the pianoforte, performed by Mrs. Macfarren, each piece being prefaced by brief remarks on the purport of the music, written expressly for these performances, by Mr. G. A. Macfarren. On this occasion the selection included the andante and presto of Mozart's sonata in G; Spinnlied, by Litolff (warmly received); impromptu in E flat, Schubert; andante, scherzo, and rondo, from Beethoven's Pastoral Sonata; Chopin's nocturne, "Il Lamento;" and Weber's "Invitation à la Valse."

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

By some accident, the *Cornhill* and the *Argosy* have not reached me.

Blackwood opens this month with a narrative poem in blank verse, covering thirty pages, which deserves a more careful word than can now be given to it. There is a very happy article about Steele. "Sir Brook Fossbrooke" is continued, as are the "Memoirs of the Confederate War," which are surely a little tedious. There is the "usual" political article at the end. The peculiarity of *Blackwood's* political article is that you might always write it beforehand for him. The attraction of the number is the poem; and this much I will say at once, that it is an attraction.

Once a Week is this time so good that it should have a strong and prominent word all to itself. The woodcuts are admirable. It is a pattern number, and if this standard can be kept up, the magazine must surely reach a very large circulation at last. We all know its pretensions—it is simply an agreeable miscellany. Lately the story element has been strengthened, but the greatest change of all is in the quality of the illustrations.

Macmillan, in an article on the "Philosophy of the Cave," felicitously says, what is indeed obvious, but has long been waiting a voice—namely, that though there is no direct abstract right to any given franchise, there is an abstract right to be justly governed; from which it follows that in so far as any given franchise helps just government, there is, indirectly, a right to that franchise. Mr. Professor Bain and Dean Stanley contribute very noticeable papers; the former one upon "Early Philosophy;" the latter, a paper on the "Ecce Homo." There is a story going about that the publishers invited sixteen people (I heard eighteen people) to meet "the author" and that they all went away as wise as they came. It doesn't say much for their ingenuity: that is my comment.

Temple Bar—almost a stranger, really—contains some pleasant reading. "Archie Lovell" I like very much. The next number is to contain the first of a series of "Letters to Joseph," by Mr. Edmund Yates. No. 1 is to be "On his Recent Annihilation." I think we can guess what this will be like, and may be sure it will be amusing. Mr. Mortimer Collins has some very nice verses, called "June Music." There is a keen article on Financing; but I don't believe, myself, that all this criticism will be of any use—people will "finance." Lord Rededale may get "standing orders" passed, and new Acts of Parliament to regulate railway finance by the dozen, but they will all be evaded—nothing can be easier. Some of the readers of this column may remember my calling attention to the "Lloyd's Bonds" idea when it was first talked about; that was only one instance out of a thousand possible instances.

In *London Society* the illustrations are, as usual, extremely good,

and the literature amusing enough. There is an article on Walter Savage Landor, which is more than amusing—it is a very intelligent piece of criticism; and the portrait, from a photograph, may be accepted as a tolerable representation of the man as he looked when advanced in years. The article about Frederic Lemaitre contains the following very entertaining anecdotes:—

The last scene of "Richard Darlington" is one of the most effective of modern drama; and it is said that Mdme. Noblet, who played the heroine (Jenny), unprepared as she had been, at rehearsal, for the passion which Lemaitre threw into his acting, was on the first night fairly frightened into hysterics. "Qu'allez-vous faire?" asks Jenny of Richard. "J'en sais rien, mais priez Dieu." Similar stories have been told of the effect that great actors have had upon the nerves of those who have been playing with them. Garcia, in the last act of "Otello," terrified more than one Desdemona into forgetfulness of music and everything else; and the present writer remembers (to come to more recent instances) to have heard a young country actor describe the effect created upon him by the appearance of Miss Cushman, on an occasion when she was acting the part of Meg Merrilies in a provincial theatre. He was the Bertram of the evening, and she had warned him, at the only rehearsal of which time had permitted, to show no signs of astonishment when he should first see her on the stage at night. He paid little attention to this at the time; but when he found himself suddenly brought face to face with the wild, weird-looking figure with which players were familiar a few years ago he could not help starting from the seat on which Bertram is found at Meg's first entrance; and was only brought to his senses by feeling the actress's hand laid heavily on his shoulder and hearing her strong, harsh voice hiss into his ear, "Sit down, you fool!"

Good Words begins a new story by Mr. William Gilbert, which is in his best style—"Ruth Thornbury, or, the Old Maid's Story;" and it contains a poem by Miss Smedley, one by the Dean of Emly, and one, without signature, "Between the Showers," which is very charming. "Madonna Mary" is, of course, continued. By-the-by, have you seen a Madonna by Cimabue in the National Gallery? I forget which room, but it is on the south side of the wall, high up, and in one of the western rooms. When you have seen it you will understand the woodcuts to "Madonna Mary" a little better.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

"Louis XI.," in which Mr. Charles Kean hit the public very hard some years ago, was revived, on Monday, at the PRINCESS—Mr. Charles Kean playing his original part and Mrs. Kean appearing as the villager's wife, Marthe. Mr. Kean's clever melodramatic performance is too familiar to the public to render any detailed account of it necessary or interesting. It is a singular, powerful, and very disagreeable piece of acting.

At the LYCEUM a translation from the German, called "Doctor Davey," has been brought out with as much success as in these days a one-act piece can hope for. The plot of the piece is founded on the same anecdote that furnished M. Melesville with the idea of the drama brought out about two years ago at the Haymarket under the title of "David Garrick." The treatment of the two pieces, however, is entirely different. "David Garrick" was a sentimental drama, all about love. The heroine was deeply in love with Garrick, and Garrick was deeply in love with the heroine. Doctor Davey is a humorous piece of work, in which the heroine's fancy for the actor is transient and curable, and Garrick, who assumes the character of Doctor Davey, cares no jot for the heroine, but undertakes her cure coolly, rationally, and *secundum artem*. Doctor Davey is a very good little drama, and smartly written. I think, however, that this latest version of the old anecdote would have made a part for such an actor as the late Mr. Robson rather than for a professed tragedian. Mr. Hermann Vezin, who acted Garrick, played with ease and care; but he was hardly fiery and impressionable enough for our English Roscius.

A new version of the evergreen story of Bluebeard, founded on the edition of "Barbe Bleue" produced at the Variétés in February last, was brought out at the OLYMPIC on Saturday. The libretto adheres to what is supposed to be historical accuracy, and Bluebeard is a French seigneur, and not a Turkish pacha, or "bashaw," as he was called in the "palm days" when our fathers wore pig-tails, and hated the Parley-vocs, and took their ships, and stole their dramas. This latest edition of the famous wife-killer is a setting to the music of the brilliant and popular Offenbach; and though I may be trespassing on ground belonging to your musical critic, still, as "Barbe Bleue" was brought out at a theatre, and not at an opera-house, I presume that I am *dans mon droit*, and request you to excuse any scraps of French which are a necessity of the subject. First, then, for the music. It is charming, clever, and difficult; but, good as it is intrinsically, it will never be as popular as the "Orphée," the "Belle Hélène," or the "Chanson de Fortunio." Almost all the music is an imitation, or parody of the motives and treatment of Meyerbeer, Verdi, and Gounod, and this, agreeable though it be to cultivated musicians endowed with a sense of humour, will never be understood or appreciated by the general public. It is a little over their heads. This last objection by no means applies to Mr. Bellingham's adaptation of the French libretto, which is by no means over the heads of any, but is rather under the feet of the most juvenile, visitors to a sixpenny theatre. The dialogue is in prose, and the jokes are of the most ordinary kind. On the other hand, the piece is mounted with extraordinary splendour. The scenery, the work of Mr. Hawes Craven, is beautiful; and the dresses and the costumes are rich, though they are not characteristic. The extravaganza is well and evenly acted. Mr. Stephens and Miss Everard are pompous and comic as the representatives of conventional burlesque royalty, and Miss Sheridan and Miss Wilson are the prettiest of Princelets and Princesses. Mr. Terrot played and sang the Bluebeard with great intelligence, and, altogether, made the most of a part that, considered dramatically, was bad; and Miss Farren delivered the mispronunciations which stand in the place of the point, repartee, and pun expected in modern extravaganza with remarkable force and humour. Miss Galton as Mopea, the Fatima of the familiar nursery legend and heroine of the new version, looked crisp and charming, and vocalised with skill and purity. She is a delightful *ingenue*—almost too ingenuous for Mopea. Mr. Tully has arranged and selected the music with the taste for which he, long ago, earned a reputation; and the execution of the various songs and choruses is highly creditable for a company unused to operatic exhibition.

Mr. Byron's burlesque of "La Sonnambula" has been revived at the PRINCE OF WALES's; and, in conjunction with his comedy of "£100,000," attracts large houses.

Mr. William Brough's extravaganza of "Papillonetta" has been produced at SADLER'S WELLS with great success.

Offenbach's long-promised opéra-bouffe of "La Belle Hélène" is now in rehearsal at the ADELPHI.

POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—A water-colour drawing of novel interest—a work of art—has been recently brought to light and deposited for exhibition in the above museum. The painting is by the late singularly-gifted Miss S. Biffin, and was executed by holding the pencil in her mouth, a Portsmouth, July 15, 1811. It represents ten feathers, snipe, jay, &c., and is mounted in one piece with an autograph paragraph, by Mr. Lusty, Regent-street. Most of our readers will remember that this illustrious little artist had neither fingers nor toes; and from that fact great value is attached to this remarkable lady's sketch.

ROYAL CALEDONIAN ASYLUM.—His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh will preside at the fifty-first anniversary dinner of the Royal Caledonian Asylum, at the Freemasons' Hall, on Monday next, the 11th inst. A very large number of the leading noblemen and gentlemen connected with Scotland are expected to be present to welcome the Prince, who will for the first time have presided upon an occasion of the kind. Every effort is being made by the committee and by the secretary, Mr. Daniel, to render the festival in all respects worthy of the illustrious presidency under which it will take place.

FOREIGN DEMAND FOR ENGLISH HORSES.—Many foreign dealers and army-horse contractors are at the present time scouring the northern counties and buying up a large number of English-bred horses for exportation to the Continent. Lincolnshire and Yorkshire are contributing largely towards the requisite supply, and the class of horses which are in demand are of a short-jointed, thickest stamp, 14 hands high, strong, and quick movers, and similar to artillery horses used in this country. At all the horse fairs there is high competition to secure these horses, and the local dealers supply the "Continental" by buying young cattle at the homesteads and breeding-lairs, and selling to foreign agents at high premiums. Many strings of this class of horses are daily transferred from the farm to shipping ports for transmission abroad. They are bought up for military purposes, and their value is enhanced by this sudden demand 15 and 20 per cent.

Literature.

Across Mexico in 1864-5. By W. H. BULLOCK. London and Cambridge: Macmillan and Co.

This is a cheerless book, but one which will not be heedlessly laid aside. It will be new to most readers. Mdm. Calderon de la Barca's "Life in Mexico" is quite forgotten and is old; and M. Chevalier's "Mexico, Ancient and Modern" is more new, but is scarcely known. Mr. Bullock seems to be an impartial observer, and he finds scarcely a thing to praise. Occasional bits of Mexican scenery he admits to be grand and picturesque; but, as a rule, the "thirst" occasioned by Prescott's gorgeous images stands no chance of being slaked. The women and men are alike ugly, and this statement is amply borne out by a few portraits scattered throughout the volume. In the course of an hour's matutinal stroll through the streets of Puebla you will not find more than a dozen persons who look as if they had a right to be out of a prison. What are called roads would hardly be recognised as roads by Englishmen, any more than the monkey is recognised as a man. Brigandage is the principal thing outside the towns; fear, the next. The hotels have nothing in them, for which they charge exorbitantly.

It would be tedious to follow Mr. Bullock through all the discomforts inseparable from the road. They comprise such things as unhappy horses, mules who can walk down a stone wall, brigands who begin by shooting you through the head; diligences full of dirt, and of which the leading horses or mules have to be pelted with huge stones because they are out of reach of the whip; indescribable beds and bedfellows, including the human race, which can only induce shuddering. Occasionally there is a pleasing picture where an English traveller is welcomed by a splendid host to a splendid entertainment. Indeed, politeness in good society seems to be carried to excess in Mexico. Whatever the guest may happen to cast his eyes upon is his; but it is scarcely expected that he should take it away with him. A Mexican gentleman will listen and agree to everything said, and will not presume to have an opinion of his own. The shopkeepers appear to hold a peculiarly enviable position, one very different from that of our London tradesman. In provincial towns, at least, when the shopkeeper returns home with his wares he is looked upon as a kind of miraculous somebody, a public benefactor, who brings curiosities and pretty things, and exhibits them whether he finds purchasers or not. Amongst the pleasant scenes will be found an excellent account of the Carnival. As a specimen of the amiability of the people, at times, a certain beneficent Don Diego actually blacks his face in order that the flour thrown shall be more ludicrously conspicuous. A pretty feature in the Carnival is the paying domiciliary visits to families and flirting with the young ladies by marking them quaintly with flour all over the face and hair, and breaking eggs over the head. But this is rather more than Truefitt would approve. By way of just touching on notable points in the present volume, we should say that the inhumanity of bull-fighting, which is still popular, seems quite companionable with the listlessness or levity which characterises Mexican funerals. But, if the *ab uno* may once more be used, there can be no wondering at these and fifty other offences against civilisation when once the traveller is within the walls of Mexico. Some people might imagine a paradise and remember something about Dr. Robertson and his golden Montezuma; but things are different. Within the walls, but still the outskirts, is a waste place ankle deep in sand, "bounded on one side by a stinking ditch, on the other by ruined churches and convents, and tenanted by dogs and vultures preying on the offal which is left there to rot. Sometimes a vulture may be seen daintily picking the eye—a tidbit—out of the head of a dead horse or mule, in the carcass of which a dog may be desecrated buried up to his tail." Politically, the book says little. Juarez has been successful in destroying much of the civilising good which the Spanish had done before the War of Independence. The churches that are not in ruins are turned into cotton warehouses, and their very bells are cast loose on the roadside. Everything under that rule was desolation, and desolation that *did not pay*. Money was so scarce that whatever property might be said to belong to the republic was sold for a mere song—our old favourite the "song of sixpence," being, perhaps, little more than an exaggeration. At all events, there is a case of a Belgian buying a piece of land, with a church and all the rest upon it, for £19 10s. Maximilian may alter all this, and Mr. Bullock's future experiences be less painful.

Thoughts on Great Painters. By I. P. DAVIS, Painter. London: Longman and Co.

This is a delightful work—genial in design and execution. It was written *con amore* by a gentleman, himself an artist of great taste, deeply versed in the true principles of his noble art, and impressed with its elevating tendencies and with profound and sympathetic admiration of its great masters. After his death his widow has published his work, as an appropriate memorial of her husband. The subject is one now daily becoming more a matter of thoughtful attention and study. Not only at the annual gatherings of the Royal Academy and at the National Gallery, but at the delightful museum of South Kensington, and lately at the National Portrait Exhibition, large classes enjoy the advantage of becoming familiar with works of great interest and of the highest order in Pictorial art; and we rejoice to find the extent to which this refining pleasure is indulged in. The work before us is admirably adapted as a manual for the study of the great masters of painting. It is written with a pen seldom possessed by artists, and conveys the true grounds of critical appreciation and judgment upon the great painters and paintings of the world, from Michael Angelo to Sir Thomas Lawrence, presented in a clear and vigorous style, varied with happy illustration. It is the work of a man evidently as ready with his pen as his pencil; and the great majority of readers will rise from its perusal with more distinct impressions and more just views of the grand workers on canvas, who, in their sphere and generation, did so much to educate and elevate humanity. To use the words of Mr. Davis:—"If their visits, like those of angels to an earlier world, have been withdrawn, never to be repeated, let us exult in that inheritance of glory which, in their immortal works, they have bequeathed to mankind." "And if Corregio never obtained, like Raffaele, the promise of a Cardinal's hat, nor became, like Titian, a Count Palatine, we may rest assured that a mind constituted like his did not distress itself under such privations. What, indeed, was wanting to his felicity? He was happy in his domestic relationships; he was absorbed in his divine creations, and was secure of immortal fame." The work has been produced with the care for which its eminent publishers are distinguished, and is adorned with a photograph frontispiece of a charming picture, painted by the author several years ago, "A Contadina dictating a Love-Letter to one of the Scribes who ply at Rome."

Silas the Conjuror. By JAMES GREENWOOD. London: S. O. Beeton.

"Silas the Conjuror," another of those works in which the peculiarities of Mr. Greenwood's style, now so well known, are eminently displayed, is especially designed for boys, whom it cannot fail to interest. The heroes of the story—for there are several to whom that designation might be given—are taken through a variety of adventures as members of a strolling company of players, and afterwards as street acrobats and conjurers. In all circumstances Silas cuts the most prominent figure, especially when he chooses to display his wonderful powers of ventriloquism; but Mr. Ben Cobb is also a prominent performer. It is this power of ventriloquism which obtains for Silas an engagement with Mr. Hiram P. Binny, a Yankee theatrical speculator, to go to Australia; it is the hope of profiting by Silas's gift of "many voices" which tempts Mr. Binny to do something very like selling him to the King of Dahomey; it is this peculiarity which gives the conjurer power over the African Monarch and his people, and gets the party

out of many perils in the land of human sacrifices. But as to the details of how Silas and his comrades got to Dahomey, what they had to endure there, how they escaped thence, and how they did all in their power to return good for evil, we must refer our readers to the volume itself, with this assurance, that they will find ample material there to reward them for the perusal. The book, we should add, is neatly got up, and is illustrated by characteristic engravings.

The Bible Dictionary. Illustrated with nearly 600 Engravings. 2 vols. London: Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.

These two large and handsome volumes will be a welcome acquisition to all readers of the Bible and to all interested in tracing the signification of words and allusions occurring in the Sacred Writings, as well as to the student of manners and customs in lands and times so different from our own. Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin have already done much, by the issue of their "Illustrated Bible," and otherwise, to popularise the Scriptures—though it sounds almost like an anomaly to talk of the Scriptures requiring to be popularised in the nineteenth century of the Christian era, but it is nevertheless true—and a better service, after the issue of the Bible itself, than the publication of this excellent Dictionary, they could not have rendered. The range of words and phrases explained is wide; the explanations are full, complete, and lucid; and the illustrations appropriate, useful, and well executed. Altogether, the "Bible Dictionary" is a valuable work.

Our Social Bees. Second Series. By ANDREW WYNTER, M.D., Author of "Subtle Brains and Lissom Fingers," "Curiosities of Civilisation," &c. London: R. HARDWICKE.

This is an interesting volume of papers, by the well-known Dr. Wynter, on the occupations and characteristics of the industrious bees of the social economy; and no one could be better qualified than the author to exhibit these in the most attractive form. Many things which seem familiar everyday occurrences have an interest thrown about them which it would have been difficult, before reading Dr. Wynter's book, to have believed possible; while others, more recondite, are made plain to even the most careless observer. A better or more instructive and amusing book for reading at odd minutes of leisure, or for use as a companion on the rail, the omnibus, or by the seaside, we have rarely met with. Dr. Wynter is always instructive, always amusing, and always pleasing and polished in style. We heartily recommend these essays to our readers.

NEW NOVELS.

Clemency Franklyn. By the Author of "Janet's Home." 2 vols. London: Macmillan and Co.

Mattins and Mutton's; or, the Beauty of Brighton. A Love Story. By CUTHBERT BEDE, Author of "Verdant Green," &c. 2 vols. London: Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.

Although what may be called the hall-mark of the plan and characters of "Clemency Franklyn" are considerably worn by age, the book commands interest and attention on account of its great literary excellence. Most modern novels bear marks of having been built, unlike Rome, in a day; the result of which is that they become ruins in less than a week. "Clemency Franklyn" is good and likely to last a fair time in the reading market, rather than great and calculated to win immortality. In face of the constant trade that is going on against anything like romancing, it seems hard to say one word against the very real life in the book; but reading it does seem to remind us of a past experience. Indeed, the first of the two volumes seems so like a twice-told tale that the *dramatis persona* and their very names impress themselves but slowly on the mind. In the second volume the interest rises greatly; and towards the close the clever development of character has a great charm. The locality of the story is simply the neighbourhood of a small country town in the iron and mining district, and three or four roofs shelter all those whose fortunes are concerned. But the master-passion is dominant from an early period, and common people become large and important. There is a magnificent Colonel Edgecombe, fresh from India, one mass of honours, and wanting a wife. The wife is to console him for the loss of active service, which he has given up in order to further the happiness of his mother's declining years; and very soon there appears to be a neck-and-neck race between two girls for the Nabob's hand. A brilliant, gay little nonentity wins the prize, giving up a lover whom she has just accepted. But this fact she conceals from her husband, and there always seems to be "a something" between them which culminates by her diverting the sum of £500 from its legitimate channel, the repair of a mine which is in a dangerous condition, for the sake of giving temporary assistance to her own foolish family. The results of this step are terrible, both physically and mentally, and serve to bring the book to a chastened and effective conclusion. The second girl, Clemency, is an excellent character of a well-known type. A little disappointed at first, but bearing no malice and displaying no impatience, she is the good angel to many, and achieves a matrimonial reward with which the reader will as heartily sympathise as do the best of her friends. We will trace no more fortunes. "Go, little book, from this my solitude." It is certain to make friendships. Small-country-town life is an excellent change, no matter how the prospect may appear from Piccadilly. It is amusing, if only to watch how the smaller the place the larger are the vices and absurdities of humanity. "Clemency Franklyn" seems to take the reader quite out of metropolitan life.

It is difficult to conceive Mr. Cuthbert Bede's object in writing "Mattins and Mutton's." It is called a "love story," and there certainly are a couple of marriages at the end; but there is very little love-making, and not enough story, as far as plot or design goes, to satisfy the requirements of an ordinary weekly miscellany. "Mutton's" means the pastrycook at Brighton, whilst "Mattins" means the morning service of the Brighton High Church people, who thus distinguish morning from evening service, or "evensong." Except some sketches of faded celebrities, who still dream over the glories of the Pavilion and the Regency, there is not a being in the book who deserves to be called a character. It is properly a handbook to Brighton, and a gross puff of the various tradespeople there. There is a chapter about the bathing-machines, in which two young ladies bathe together, and one is carried out of the water by a faithful but mistaken dog, who tears her dress very severely. Another lady goes head over heels, or something like it, down the Devil's Dyke, and the composure of her drapery is dwelt upon in strange fashion. These passages may or may not be intended for humour; they will scarcely occasion merriment in pure minds. There is a chapter about a tom cat getting into a servant's crinoline and running about the room with it, until foolish people mistake the thing for a ghost; and this, of course, is an indispensable feature in a love story. There is also a whole chapter about a man-servant being drunk and making love to his young mistress—another love story. Another chapter is a perfect groan over the decadence of the Pavilion; and the unfinished state of the Townhall draws sarcasm and tears. But, above all, Mr. Cuthbert Bede is as small a wit as ever he was. He makes puns—he has no other form of wit—that would escape the mind of the most foolish schoolgirl anxious after comic fame. He mentions the opera "Masaniello," "or, rather, Masani yell ho!" Then, "Busy with your book! Why, my dear Helen, you have scarcely turned over a leaf—though I wish that you would turn over another leaf." "Now, Mamma, that's a pun." A fat parson—a very flimsy abstraction from "My Uncle, the Curate"—falls down on his back, and says, "I always fancied, with my figure to help the idea, that I must belong to the Broad Church party; but, undoubtedly, now I must be Low Church." And, as a matter of course, the invalid being sent to Brighton to brighten her up, is annexed to Mr. Bede's originality at a very early period. We know people with this propensity for punning, and punning badly, who are looked upon as the pests of society; and there will surely be an immense decrease in the traffic returns of the railway unless some other form of whimsicality be hit upon as an attraction to visitors to Brighton.

POETS.

Poems. By ROBERT LEIGHTON. Liverpool: Edward Howell.
The Inner Life. A Poem. By the Rev. WILLIAM TIDD MATSON, Author of "Half a Lifetime," &c. London: Elliot Stock.
Duke Ernest, a Tragedy, and Other Poems. By ROSAMOND HERVEY. London: Macmillan and Co.
A Century of Sonnets, Lines on the Burns Commemoration of 1859, The Funeral of Canning, and Other Verses. By JACOB JONES, Author of "Rural Sonnets," &c. London: Alfred W. Bennett.
Three Dramas. By the Authoress of "St. Bernardine," and other Poems. London: F. Pitman.

Space is valuable, in a newspaper as well as in the City, and poets are numerous, so that we are constantly forced to gather them together in bunches. In our present list we have placed the three best at the head—Robert Leighton, W. Tidd Matson, and Rosamond Hervey.

Mr. Leighton is obviously a man of fine natural faculties, and his poems wake up a good deal of sympathy in willing readers. He often writes with great beauty, and the advice we would take the liberty of giving him is to produce much less and elaborate much more. If he has studied the history of the fortunes of minor poets, he has found (we think) that they are generally remembered on the strength of one or two decisively good little poems, which, either by conscious or unconscious effort, have been made nearly perfect. Mr. Leighton has a just sense, which he beautifully expresses here and there, of the supreme value of spontaneity and truth; but he will not deny that there is such a thing as art. His book contains plenty of the ore of thought, and some really fine passages; but in all the 356 pages there is not a poem that we can conceive isolated by a good critic for quotation in a "Golden Treasury of Minor Poetry." We shall be glad to hear of Mr. Leighton again, and part from him for the present with a quotation or two:—

THE WHISPER.

The world hath thrown thee off, but thou hast fallen
On that which doth the giddy world bear up.
The surge hath cast thee down, but thou hast found
The deep sea's rest. The surge itself but frets
To find a rest like thine: it looks above,
In envy of yon heaven's quiet blue,
And scrambles to get up:—ah, witless surge!
That ceaseless climbing lengthens thine unrest;
Thou must at last return into the deep
Still bosom of thy being; peace is there—
The unfathom'd peace that can alone be thine.
Yon blue serenity does not exist,
Save in the eye's delusion: when the hand
Draws near to take the bliss, it is not there.

And, side by side with this, we will place the following, from quite another part of the book, only adding that we omit the last verse, because it is a verse too much. The fitting close of the poem is where we leave off:—

THE REST OF NATURE.

When Nature rests at noon, and seems
To tarry on the endless path,
'Tis not the faintness of her beams,
The love of ease, the rest of sloth.

For oft it takes no stronger will,
No deeper life to do than be;
So is that quiet Nature still
The all of good and fair we see.

The ocean-deeps drink in more heaven,
At peace within their molten core,
Than when on high and tempest-riven,
They shout their grand impassion'd psalm.

Nor is that calm a stagnant ease;
The tides hold on to ebb and flow,
And thoughts are passing in the seas,
Which only God may truly know.

Mr. Matson has caught the trick of the "In Memoriam" in a most extraordinary manner. He, too, has a mind both sweet and fine, and should, with concentration, do still better. We happen to remember some verses of his, printed in 1852, beginning

They called him Mystic, for a dream
Begirt with dreams, to him was life.

Where we saw them shall be a secret between Mr. Matson and ourselves. We are glad to meet him again, and only wish he had a little more "go," and a little less leaning to princes, and princesses, and all that sort of thing.

The elegant volume which bears the name of "Rosamond Hervey" is not destitute of merit—shall we say promise? If the writer is young, and if she happen to have inspiring experiences, we may possibly hear of her again.

Of the two other volumes, Mr. Jones's is the best. In both there are poetic feeling and constructive skill, and Mr. Jones has undeniable capacity as a critic. There are pages in his volume that we can look at with some pleasure. We do not happen to have seen "St. Bernardine and other Poems;" but the "Three Dramas," by the same authoress, do not claim, we suppose, to rank as anything more than the recreations of an elegant mind.

A HERMIT.—The vagaries of a man who has turned recluse and taken up his abode in a cave on Skiddaw are exciting the attention of tourists in the Cumberland lake district this season. It appears that about three years ago an eccentric-looking man, of tall and slender build, a pale complexion, and speaking with a Scotch accent, paid a visit to Keswick, where he occupied lodgings for a week. During that period he made frequent excursions up Skiddaw, always returning with his clothes covered with mud, and his mysterious wanderings excited considerable attention at the time, various stories being set afloat of his search for precious metals or a hidden treasure. In the course of a few days, however, the man left his lodgings and disappeared, and the mystery which had surrounded his frequent expeditions up the mountain was solved. It was found that the eccentric being had been searching for a cave in which he might take up his abode; but not having met with much success, he had made himself a "nest" on the breast of the mountain, and there he had taken up his abode for the last three years. A tourist, who had visited the man, thus describes the strange "cave" and the personal appearance and habits of the recluse:—"A visit to the place showed us a circular hole, situated about 300 yards up the breast of the mountain and partly on the edge of a cliff; it is about 3 ft. in depth and 4 ft. in diameter, which, after assiduous labour, he has contrived to line with moss, &c. The roof, or lid, is portable, and made of reeds brought from the edge of the lake, and curiously wrought together in the form of an umbrella, so that when he retires to rest he shuts it down from the inside. He has now resided there nearly three years, and has stood alike the scorching rays of summer and the snows and storms of winter, although it has been seen nearly half filled with water. His appearance is ludicrous in the extreme. His hair is thrown over his shoulders and hangs far down his back, and forms the only protection to the head; his clothes seem to have been in the height of fashion twenty years ago, and are quite threadbare; he wears no shoes, and goes on his perigrinations in his stocking feet. He gives the name of Smith; and, judging by his language, belongs to Scotland, but when questioned on the subject, gives an evasive answer. He makes almost daily visits to Keswick, where he purchases tea and sugar, mixing and eating them dry. His only cooking apparatus is a small pan, in which he cooks messes of very questionable ingredients, boiling them by the aid of lighted tallow. Through the limited accommodation of his habitation he is obliged to lie in a circular position, much resembling a dog in a kennel. He has quite a passion for water-colour drawing, and has proved himself no mean artist. He enjoys very good health, considering his mode of living, but has occasionally a touch of rheumatism." The cave on Skiddaw is not, however, his only haunt. He occasionally favours Helvellyn with a visit, and at times extends his perigrinations to Saddleback. Occasionally he seems to assume the appearance of a religious fanatic, and wanders about the hills preaching to the sheep; but in some of his descents into the vales his appearance frightened some of the peaceful inhabitants, and the police having had their attention directed to him, he recently underwent incarceration in the county gaol for disorderly conduct at Keswick. While in prison he painted a good portrait of the Governor, but it had been a great grief to him to have his hair cut. Having finished his term of imprisonment, he has now gone back to his old haunts a cleaner if not a wiser man.

THE ROYAL MARRIAGES.—We believe we are correct in stating that the following ladies will be Royal Highness Princess Helena's bridesmaids:—Lady Margaret Scott, Lady Caroline Gordon Lennox, Lady Bertha Hamilton, Lady Katharine Phillips, Lady Alexandrina Murray, Lady Ernestine Edgcombe, Lady Elizabeth Parker, and Lady Muriel Campbell. Her Royal Highness Princess Mary's bridesmaids will, we understand, be Lady Agneta Yorke, Lady Cornelia Churchill, Lady Cecilia Molyneux, and Lady Georgiana Hamilton.—*The Owl.*

THE RACE FOR THE GRAND PRIX: THE RETURN

THROUGH THE CHAMPS ELYSEES.
We have already recorded the vast progress which the Parisians continue to make in all that relates to sport. One day it is a great sale of horses at the Palais de l'Industrie; another sees a grand exhibition of the Haut Ecole of Saumur at the same place; a third was devoted to a regatta, in which some wonderful results of the instruction of British coxswains might have been apparent; and in a week or two preparations will be made for one of those instructive cricket-matches which raise the slightly-contemptuous astonishment of members of our own Elevens, who look on and applaud.

The most attractive spectacle of the past few days, however, has been the Races for the Grand Prix, or rather not so much the assembly on the course itself as the return of the company through the long avenue of the Champs Elysees, ending dimly in the Arc de Triomphe. There is no more picturesque cavalcade to be seen than this company; and, though the scene is perhaps wanting in the rough fun and vulgar drollery which renders the British coming home from the Derby so popular, and is, in fact, a spectacle on a much smaller scale, it has elements of its own in the brilliant dresses, the green turf, the trees, the lamps, and the generally bright and theatrical aspect of its details, which make it singularly charming.

The accompanying Engraving, from a sketch taken on the spot indicated, is a representation of it; but not even the artist's rapid pencil can reproduce the bustle, the rattle of wheels, the clatter of horses' hoofs, the shrill laughter, the quick repartees, the musical talk, the flashes of light and colour, the whirl and giddy revelry which form the attractions of that marvellous drive. The cavaliers are gay and bright in many-coloured garments, and the new taste for horsemanship which has grown up in Paris during the past two years has vastly improved the seats of most of them, while they manage their steeds less as though they were guiding a velocipede; but even now they often display an anxiety which promotes perspiration, and so renders them peculiarly liable to inconvenience from the fine dust of the long avenue. But the dust of the Champs Elysees is not dirty, and the dresses and equipages retain their bright hues and glittering surfaces. The weather has been cold, certainly, and the time has scarcely arrived for the enjoyment of an outdoor lounge; but three sons for a chair on the edge of the great drive in the Elysian Fields is a cheap luxury, if one takes care to carry an overcoat, and there really is some sunshine and blue sky shining through the tender green of the trees. One may forget a slight chilliness in the air in the sense of light and warmth in those gay, glittering toilets which glow in the



PARIS RACES: RETURN FROM THE GRAND PRIX MEETING.

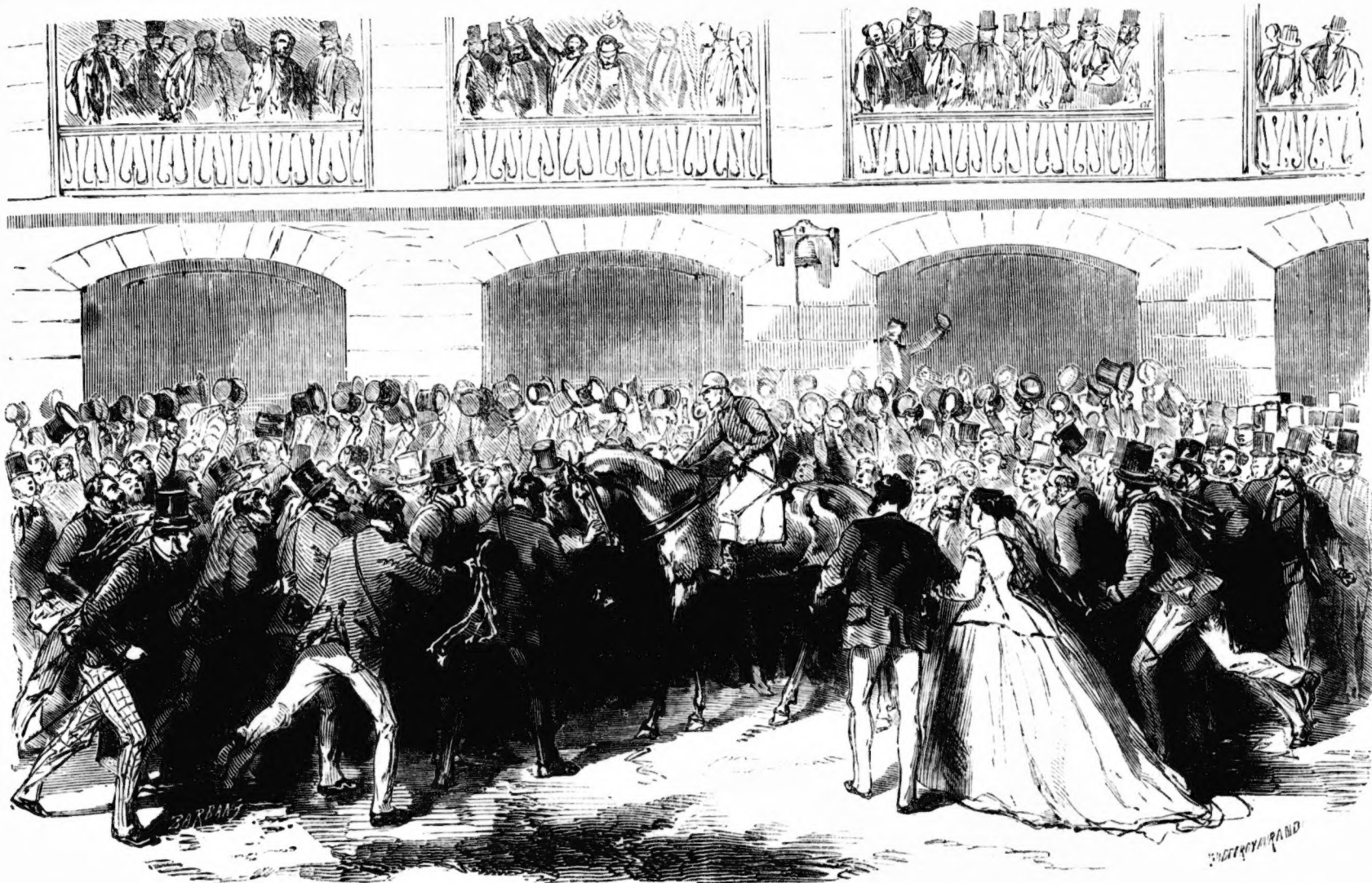
open carriages like moving bouquets; and, oh! what toilets they are! Not to be profanely described apart from the column devoted to the fashions—not even to be remembered or commented upon in detail by any masculine mind; but to be gazed at, wondered at, admired, laughed at, paid for—at least, let us hope so—and forgotten. Things of beauty and joys for about eleven minutes, or the length of time during which they can be kept in view along the great avenue of the Champs Elysees. One article only of all these varied beauties dwells upon the memory, and that has become identified with the racecourse at these spring meetings. The "svelte *mon-jume-homme*" is the suggestive name given to this most

expressive ornament; and it consists simply of a rosette, from which two long broad ribbon streamers float winglike behind the retreating fair one. On the course itself, however, there was such a furore, such a whirl and rush of excitement, as is seldom seen, even in racing circles; and when the winner of the great prize (100,000 *fr.*) of the City of Paris returned to the weighing-stand, great were the acclamations of our compatriots in welcome of the English horse, who has once more restored our prestige. It may be necessary to inform some of our readers that Ceylon (the winning horse), who has acquired not only the grand prize, but the artistic additions to this prize presented by the Emperor, is the property of the Duke of Beaufort;

and the British enthusiasm after the race was unbounded when the bay colt, trained by John Day, entered the select circle with his triumphant jockey (Cannon) on his back. Our Engraving represents this triumphant moment, when the English sportsmen and the members of the Jockey Club received both horse and man with repeated acclamations.

BANQUET TO CAPTAIN MAURY.—A banquet was given, on Tuesday night, at Willis's Rooms, to Captain Maury. Sir John Pakington presided over a large and distinguished company on the occasion. The chairman,

in a speech of some length, dwelt on the great advantages which Captain Maury had conferred by his researches and discoveries on the maritime world, and presented him with an elegant silver casket, containing upwards of 3000 guineas. The gallant Captain, in a brief speech, acknowledged the honour done him, and bore testimony to the encouragement he had received from all the civilised countries of Europe, and the assistance he had obtained from the voluntary efforts of gentlemen engaged in seafaring pursuits all over the world. General Beauregard, who is present in this country on business connected with the Louisiana Railroad, also addressed the meeting.



PARIS RACES: CEYLON, WINNER OF THE GRAND PRIZE, AT THE WEIGHING-STAND AFTER THE RACE.

WOODIN'S ENTERTAINMENT.

We have already given a description of the new entertainment which Mr. W. S. Woodin has this season produced at the Polygraphic Hall, and which has been written for him by Mr. T. W. Robertson. Mr. Woodin personates a number of people who are supposed to have resorted, for various reasons, to Baden-Baden, where the scene of the first portion of the entertainment is laid. Our Engraving shows the principal personages portrayed. The first figure on the left is a young lady, fast and sentimental, in search of a husband;

the next is a retired London Alderman, in search of health, but who mars his purpose by over-indulgence in gastronomical luxuries; the third is a German quack doctor, who physics the residents at the Spa, and is much more anxious to feel their purses than their pulses; then we have a servant "gall," who tells the story of her loves, and of how she has been jilted for "Sarah Jane," and how she resented the aforesaid jilting; then comes an American with many names, a keen scent for speculation, and a most profound contempt for the smallness of all things European; and, lastly, the flower-girl of the Baden racecourse, and in the background a

jockey. Each of these characters sings an appropriate song, and the jockey dances a racing hornpipe. In each delineation Mr. Woodin is exceedingly happy—his make-up, style of talking, manners, &c., being pat to the subject in hand. The most marvellous thing both in this and in the subsequent portion of the entertainment—which is entitled "Up in the Air," and exhibits a series of adventures on a London housetop—is the rapidity with which Mr. Woodin changes his costumes and transforms himself from one character into another. The entertainment is, deservedly, a great success.



SCENES FROM MR. WOODIN'S ENTERTAINMENT AT THE POLYGRAPHIC HALL.

FINE ARTS.

THE EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

[CONCLUDING NOTICE.]

THE South Room has the usual space allotted to miniature and architecture.

Two little heads on ivory, by Mr. Taylor, "Ethel Mary" (614) and "Mabel" (616), are pleasant specimens of child-portraiture. In the likenesses of children there is little fear that photography will ever supplant miniature, so long as the latter is as gracefully and naturally painted as Mr. Taylor does it. Miss A. Dixon's portrait of "Mrs. Antrous" (620) is another charming specimen of the art, and Mrs. Charrette makes a very pretty picture of "Little Trot" (630).

A painting on vellum, "Letters composing the word Juliana, entwined and surrounded by flowers and the Arts" (654), by the Hon. H. Rowley, must also be reckoned under the head of miniature, being in fact an example of the delicate missal-illumination from which the term was borrowed. The flowers in this almost microscopic specimen are admirably done; but flower-painting is, after all, a very low class of painting, and the figures, unclad Cupids (styled by courtesy, we presume, the Arts), are lamentably ill-drawn—a defect their diminutive size would have concealed had it not been too glaring. We are at a loss to see why this artist should be distinguished by an "Honorary," unless, as it is often asserted, had drawing been a recommendation in Trafalgar-square.

Among the water colours, for which the Academy provides but meagre accommodation, are two little pictures, by Mr. Mahony (a new artist to us), which will attract, and deservedly, considerable attention. "The Smoke on the Sly" (677), a carefully-studied and soundly-painted work, represents a lad who takes the opportunity of the potato-shed for a furtive whiff. The meaning of "Now, then, Lazy!" is not quite so obvious, unless the remark be addressed to the sleeping cat, but the work is just as meritorious. Other paintings in this class, which deserve more than the mere passing word of praise that we can give them, are "A Head" (657), by Mr. E. Dalziel; "Wood Pigeon" (656), by Mr. W. Cruickshank; "Covent-garden" (680), by Mr. Fisher; "An Autumn Evening" (714), by Mr. Ditchfield; "A November Sunset" (715), by Mr. Burton; and "The Last Gleam" (740), by Mr. Stocks, whose "Over the Moor" (749) also should not be overlooked. Mr. Dudley displays much fancy in his "Fairy Song" (668); and the Misses Claxton elaborate a modern sermon on "The Beatitudes" (655) very happily on the whole, though we prefer Miss A. Claxton's "Baillif's Daughter of Islington" (707) to these, and "Broken Off" (745). A "Cool Reception" (717), by Mr. Pasquier, and "The Ghost Story" (701), by Mr. G. Thomas, are much above the average. A very clever "Lion's Head" (692) by Mr. Crozier; "The Chase" (694), by Sir Edwin Landseer; and two graceful studies (691-693) by Mr. Aldridge, with a masterly group of "snake-head lilies" (752) by Mr. Smallfield, exhaust the chief objects of general interest in this room. The architectural designs, as a rule, interest only those of the profession, and fail to please the general public, despite the attractive blue skies, and green trees and lawns, which are thrown in to help the designs, and are about as much like nature as the architectural structures, when carried out, are like the original sketches. Designs for "A Metropolitan Meat and Poultry Market at Smithfield" (777), for "The Holborn Viaduct" (774), and "The Terminus at St. Pancras" (780) have, however, an interest for those who wish to see that London is not disgraced by the new buildings proposed.

It shows how the Academy regard the art of engraving that the Octagon Room, having been found too bad even for the worst of the paintings annually exhibited, is devoted to the exhibition of the engravings. When so small and ill-lighted a space is all that is devoted to this branch of art, the wonder is not that it should be represented by so few of its professors, but that any of the foremost of them should, out of regard for the art, overlook the slight shown them. Wood and steel engraving and etching are well, if not largely, represented within the eight narrow walls. Mr. Lane, Mr. Graves, and Mr. Barlow exhibit some sound, honest work on metal, and Mr. Lemon engraves "The Wounded Robin" (818) very well for the Art Union—the society which, professing to cultivate the public taste, has thus engraved a picture of Mr. Le Jeune's!

With the point, Mr. E. Edwards, Mr. Haden, and Mr. Legros have achieved some fine effects, against which Mr. H. Cole's "Sackets" (824) appears to but slight advantage.

In sculpture there is not more than usual to praise, but, at the same time, not more to blame—a fact which shows the art is not declining, perhaps cannot sink any lower. But the sweeping criticism which condemns all our sculptors and takes the exhibition in Trafalgar-square as an example is grossly unfair. The preponderance of portraits over other paintings in the present exhibition is not taken as evidence of the decadence of the English school of painters, but simply as proof of the mismanagement of the Royal Academy. There are few people among the visitors to the exhibition who do not know from their own experience of a large and meritorious school of painters beyond the walls. But the province of sculpture is more limited; its finest works infinitely more difficult of exhibition, and the number of commissions for portrait-busts, or works including portrait-busts, infinitely more numerous in proportion to the other works, than is the case with the sister-art of painting. We are not denying for a moment that sculpture is far from what we should wish to see it—has, indeed, sunk from its former high estate. But the fact is not to be deduced or evidenced by the long and weary lines of busts that form a ghastly barricade beyond which many lovers of art even find it hard to penetrate in the lower regions devoted to sculpture in Trafalgar-square.

Sculpture is an art which appeals chiefly to a refined and educated few, though, of course, the many affect to understand and admire it, and, in order to obtain a show of knowledge, submit to the guidance of the critics. The uncultivated mind cannot appreciate the charms of pure outline, and the graceful flow of curves and balance of limbs which are the beauties of sculpture; and, coming thus prepared to censure what it cannot perceive, readily imbibes the condemnatory doctrines pronounced by any critic from some motive or another (say the desire to push the interests of a friend in a profession where there is much competition and a limited market).

Mr. Durham, the new Associate, is represented by some creditable statues and groups. A portrait-figure, "On the Seashore" (842), shows how easily that generally objectionable thing, a likeness, may be made artistic and pleasing; while the bust of "Charles Knight" (874) proves how a fine head may be given with force and character enough to attract the general observer even. And this reminds us that much of the blame attaching to the long array of uninteresting busts is due to the sitter's commonplace look and to our present fashion—the monotony of our mode of dress. Everyone nowadays dresses like his neighbour, to a button, to the width of his collar, and the cut of his hair. There is no individuality in dress, despite the diversity which the volunteer movement introduced. Those who dress at all originally (the Poet Laureate, for instance) are set down by the general public as eccentrics. You may walk along Piccadilly and Pall-mall, and measure off Young England by the mile dressed in one style—short cutaway coat, tight trousers, small stick-up collars, stocks, and French hats. What could Pheidias himself have done with such a generation of sheeplike followers of the first fool that sets a fashion? Among Mr. Durham's other works, we may mention specially his bust of Miss Evelyn Hankey (915).

A bronze bust, "La Gorgone" (869), by the Duchess of Castiglione Colonna, is a remarkably fine work, realising thoroughly the terrible and fatal beauty of Medusa, without a trace of the usual grotesque horror. "A Bacchante" (861), "A Girl of Transevere" (921), and "Madame Moreau" (962), by Mr. D'Epina, are also far above the ordinary average, being full of thought, care, and a happy appreciation of graceful lines. Mr. Noble exhibits two characteristic busts, "The Count de Flahault" (866) and "Mr. James Healds, of Manchester" (897), in which he hits off with equal felicity the refined features of the French noble and the rugged vigour of the

normal Englishman. Baron Marochetti is represented by some creditable works, which prove—and we may note specially the "Design for a Cup" (838)—that, although not the greatest sculptor of the day, he is by no means the worst, as some critics would fain represent him to be.

One of the most unsatisfactory things in the sculpture department is Mr. Woolner's statuette of "Pack" (932). It is feeble and ungraceful. There is nothing of the tricky sprite about it. Its model might have been taken from one of the bottled monstrosities in Surgeon's Hall. Exaggeration of attitude is attempted to be passed off for quaintness, and deformity is made to do duty for the superhuman. Fancy there is none, nor is there a trace of originality in either figure or attitude. Mr. Woolner is so much depreised by many critics—or one critic in many guises—and is really so very fair a workman, that we may well complain when one who is so much talked of and who (can it be on that account?) so seldom gives the public a specimen of what he can do, foists off upon us so unworthy and weak a performance.

Sir Edwin Landseer has snatched a few moments from his application to the Nelson lions to model a group of a "Stag at Bay" (942), attacked by hounds. He has, perhaps, found it difficult to convey life and action in the new material as well as he is wont to do on the canvas; and this may perhaps account for his giving his work a coat of colour. Or does Sir Edwin intend by this to give in his adhesion to Gibson's theory that the Greek and Roman statues were painted?—a theory, by-the-way, which, if true, would lend additional weight to our remarks on the limited powers of sculpture to appeal to the public taste. If the old statues were coloured, it proves that even the refined and educated people of classic times failed to appreciate the beauty of form unaided by a slight tint of colour.

In concluding our notice of the Academy, we can only add that repeated visits have but confirmed our first impression of its inferiority to the exhibitions of the last few previous years. We trust, however, that the infusion of new blood and the proposed reforms, stimulated by the distinct expression of public opinion on the short comings of the institution, may tend to improve the prospects for next year's exhibition.

VOLUNTEER REVIEW IN REGENT'S PARK.—The Secretary of State for War has approved of a review of volunteers taking place in London, on Saturday, June 23. Applications from corps which may be desirous of attending must be made in the prescribed form through the Lords Lieutenant of their respective counties, and delivered at the War Office on or before Saturday, the 16th inst., after which date no further applications will be received.

RENDERING NITRO-GLYCERINE NON-EXPLOSIVE.—It appears that practically there is no greater difficulty in rendering nitro-glycerine non-explosive or explosive, at pleasure, than there is in accomplishing the same feat with gunpowder, although the means employed are, of course, dissimilar. The recent accidents with the new explosive agents have induced Mr. Nobel to turn his attention seriously to the subject, and he is now enabled to state that, by mixing the nitro-glycerine with methyl alcohol (a cheap spirit, popularly known as spirit of wood), the nitro-glycerine is rendered unexplosive, either by percussion or heat. When required for use, water is added, which absorbs the spirit, and the oil sinks to the bottom of the vessel, whence it is drawn by a syphon, and its explosive nature thereupon found to be restored. Experiments for testing the value of this discovery have already been made in America, and have given highly satisfactory results. We look upon the subject as one of the greatest importance to miners, and shall be glad if the new discovery enables us to transport nitro-glycerine at least as safely as blasting-powder, while we believe it has already been proved much more efficacious.—*Mining Journal*.

THE LADY GODIVA PROCESSION AT COVENTRY.—This ancient pageant was exhibited on Monday in the fine old city of Coventry. With their characteristic predilection for processional shows, the citizens were most solicitous to do honour to the memory of the Countess Godiva, whose reputed spirit of self-sacrificing benevolence has indissolubly associated her name with the city as its greatest benefactress. The well-known legend is first mentioned by Matthew of Westminster, who wrote in 1307, 250 years after the time of Leofric. The procession, as at present exhibited, was originated during the reign of Charles II., in 1677. The usual style of the representative "lady" having of late become obnoxious, the Secretary of State has been communicated with, and Sir G. Grey wrote to the Mayor of Coventry a few days since, requesting him "to take measures to prevent public decency being outraged on the occasion." The Countess was personated by Madame Panton, described as "from the Royal Academy," who rode a splendid charger lent by Mr. C. Hengler. The pageant extended about a mile. The city companies, attended by their followers and banners, and the local clubs, Oddfellows and Foresters, with their glittering paraphernalia, were well represented, and added to the display.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—A meeting of this institution was held on Thursday, at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. Mr. Lewis, the Secretary, read the minutes of the previous meeting. Rewards amounting to £68 were granted by the institution to the crews of several of its life-boats and those of shore-boats for saving fifty-six lives during the past two months from different wrecks on our coasts. Rewards amounting to £74 were also given for valuable services rendered during the same period by the crews of the other life-boats of the institution. The silver medal of the institution and £2 were voted to Francis Haydon, mason, and £4 to his boat's crew, for putting off during a very heavy gale of wind and rescuating, at considerable risk of life, some of the crew of the Swedish brig *Fahl Bure*, of Sundswall, which was wrecked off Sandown, Isle of Wight, on the night of the 24th of March last. Payments amounting to upwards of £5000 had been made by the institution during the past two months on various life-boat establishments. During the past month the institution had sent new life-boats to Runswick, Leicestershire, and St. Ives. Public demonstrations had been made at Sheffield and Leicester on the occasion of the life-boats being formally presented on the part of the inhabitants of those towns to the institution. A contribution of £310 had been received from the working men of Edinburgh to defray the cost of a life-boat; also £435 collected for the same purpose from the grocers in England, through the indefatigable exertions of Mr. W. Reed. It was stated that the Freemasons, the Odd Fellows, and the towns of Wolverhampton and Burton-on-Trent were collecting the cost of life-boats for the institution. The city of Dublin was also collecting the cost of a life-boat. A legacy of £50 had been left to the institution by the late George Scott, Esq., of Warburton, Oxford. Reports were read from the Inspector and assistant-inspector of life-boats on their recent visits to various life-boat stations under the management of the society. A communication was read from the Dutch Shipwreck Society requesting that a life-boat and transporting-carriage might be constructed for that society by Messrs. Forrest and Son, the builders to the institution. The proceedings then terminated.

AN EXTRAORDINARY IMPOSTURE.—On Saturday last an elderly and respectably-attired man, who gave the name John Mobley, was taken before the Aylesbury divisional bench—Mr. Senior and Dr. Connel—under the following singular circumstances:—Mr. Thomas Stallwood, of Looekey-row, near Princes Risborough, Bucks, said that a week ago he received a message, in consequence of which he went to the Rose and Crown Inn, at Sanderton, near High Wycombe, and he there saw the prisoner, who said to him, "Do you know me?" Witness replied in the negative. "Well," rejoined the prisoner, "I am William Stallwood, your father's brother. I was transported abroad thirty-five years ago." The prosecutor replied, "Oh! I have heard my father say that he had a brother who many years ago went into foreign parts; but I never knew he was transported." "Oh! yes," continued the prisoner, "he was, and I am the man." The prisoner then went on to say that when his term of transportation had expired he devoted himself to habits of industry, and had contrived, by dint of hard work and by speculations into which he had entered, to save about £5000, which he had caused to be remitted from Australia to one of the banks at Wycombe, and which he was going to draw out in a few days' time; and his intention was to settle down in his native country, and he was willing to remember the prosecutor, "his nephew," in his will. Some further conversation ensued, some beer was drunk, and at last the prosecutor told Mobley he had a spare room at home which he might occupy if he chose, which was at once acceded to. Stallwood accordingly took him home, and the prisoner remained there five days, eating and drinking and partaking of the best his larder could afford. During his stay Mobley promised him that he should accompany him to High Wycombe, when he went to receive the first instalment of his money. Mobley, however, on the day of expectation, contrived to leave Stallwood's house, unseen, by the back door, and he never returned. "During his stay with me," added the prosecutor, "I supplied him with good food and lodgings; but I have since ascertained that he is no relative of mine at all." The Bench cautioned and discharged the prisoner, observing that they scarcely thought a charge of false pretence was made out, Stallwood having voluntarily taken him home and given him, unsolicited, food and lodgings. If the prosecutor wanted a remedy, under the circumstances, he must make out a bill against Mobley and sue him in the county court. It transpired during the hearing of the case that Mobley had lately fleeced several persons at Wolverton, Stony Stratford, Bucks, and at places in Wiltshire, out of various sums of money, by pretending to fall in a fit, and thus exciting their sympathy, and by representing that he was in expectation of large amounts and needed assistance for present necessities. Mr. Superintendent Denson said several charges of a like nature had been preferred against the prisoner from other places, and he would have to re-apprehend him.

THE SICK POOR IN THE STRAND WORKHOUSE.

ON Wednesday Mr. B. B. Cane, a special commissioner of the Poor-Law Board, concluded an inquiry at the Strand Union Workhouse respecting the treatment of the sick poor there. The inquiry originated in a communication from a former head nurse to the Earl of Carnarvon, as president of the Association for the Improvement of Metropolitan Infirmaries, and which communication the Earl had forwarded to the Poor-Law Board. During the inquiry Mr. Ernest Hart and Mr. J. C. Parkinson attended to watch the case, as also did several of the guardians of the Strand Union. The first witness examined was Miss Matilda Beaton, who had formerly been head nurse, and who had made the complaints which led to the inquiry. Her evidence went to show that the sick wards of the workhouse were overcrowded, that the pauper nurses were unfit for their places, and frequently made mistakes in administering the medicines; that the clothes were not washed properly in the laundry; and that the stimulants ordered for the sick were often either sold to, or stolen by, the nurses. Dr. Joseph Rogers, the medical officer of the workhouse, was also examined, and he corroborated the evidence of the previous witness. He had been medical officer for more than ten years. There was not sufficient accommodation in the wards, and he had no means of classifying the sick. He found out the insufficiency of the accommodation by seeing how fever spread when the house was overcrowded. He had mentioned the defects of the management to members of the board of guardians again and again, but without avail. He believed the management of the sick was a disgrace to the authorities. In the women's ward they had had a nurse who was singularly unfit for her work, and in the men's ward the state of things was positively frightful. The male pauper nurse was found robbing the patients of what was necessary to them in the most heartless manner, and when he was removed the "paid" assistant whom the guardians provided was a broken-down potman, who was ill, and had bad legs. Such was the ignorance which this man displayed that the doctor was glad to avail himself of the proffered aid of a patient who was suffering from chronic consumption. In cross-examination he said that his exertions for the poor had brought upon him the personal hostility of individual members of the board, and he appealed to the guardians present to confirm his statement. Several of them said it was quite true. Some of those who had been so hostile to him had not been re-elected, and therefore his difficulties had been somewhat lessened. Not only had the sick wards too few cubic feet of space in them, but the nursery was unfit for the children. They (the children) were not given a chance of life; the condition in which they existed until they were two years of age were such as to bring on mesenteric disease. [At this point one of the guardians asked what mesenteric disease was—was it something to eat?] Whilst being cross-examined by Mr. Ernest Hart, the witness related how a pauper nurse, knowing that one of the patients who was dying had some gin under his pillow, hit upon the plan of making a mustard poultice, and found, in putting that on the dying man's back, an opportunity for stealing the gin. He also confirmed a statement, made by Miss Beaton, to the effect that the children's milk was stolen and sold by the nurses. Mr. Thorne, the master of the workhouse, was next examined. He denied the truth of one or two of the statements made by the first witness. He had not known the laundry-women to be drunk, except after having been out on leave. He did not visit the wards every day and night because he had such heavy duties to perform in keeping accounts, in superintending outdoor business and repairs to the house. Some time since he had applied to the board for assistance, and it was granted in the shape of £30 towards paying a clerk. He had to supplement that sum out of his own pocket in order to get one. The matron was examined; and after that the master was asked whether, with the staff he had, he was able to do all which he considered necessary for the sick poor. In reply, he handed to the commissioner a report which he had recently made to the board of guardians, and in which he said that, owing to the over-crowding of the workhouse and to the poisonous nature of the atmosphere, he had been unwell, and put to considerable expense, which he prayed the board to reimburse him. The female nurses, fifteen in number, were called in, and four of them were found to be over seventy years of age, and all the others, except two, were over sixty. Some of them could not read at all, and others very imperfectly. All wore spectacles, and one, indeed, was nearly totally blind. Two of the guardians handed a paper to Mr. Cane, in which they expressed their concurrence in the chief grounds of complaint. A vote of thanks to the commissioner concluded the proceedings, which will be reported to the Poor-Law Board.

THE SAILORS' STRIKE.—The strike of the sailors in the port of London appears to have become much more general than was at first anticipated, and a crowded meeting of the men was held on Saturday night last to state their claims and describe their grievances. The feeling of the meeting was temperate and reasonable, and the resolution they agreed to "that sailors' wages are inadequate, considering the dangers they have to encounter and the cost of the provision they have to make," was one which few people will dispute. Much of the evil which sailors have to endure has arisen from their own imprudence and reckless habits when ashore; but there is unquestionably nowadays a great improvement in their conduct and desires, of which the tone and attitude of this meeting were excellent illustrations. The notice of motion given by Mr. Graves, M.P. for Liverpool, for a general inquiry into the condition of seamen, was spoken of with great approval. The meeting concluded by passing a resolution for the formation of a protection society.

A DREAM WORTH A £50 NOTE.—A professional gentleman having most unaccountably lost a bank-note for £50, every search and inquiry was instituted for it at his offices, of his clerks, and of the porter having charge of the chambers, without the slightest clue being found as to the missing treasure. Diligently and anxiously were the inquiries prosecuted, and great became the anxiety and perplexity of the individuals having access to the chambers. Still there was no trace of the lost note. Some time thus elapsed. Suspicious and uncomfortable and disagreeable ideas floated in the minds of all parties interested in the affair; when one morning, on the arrival of the owner of the money, he was thus greeted by the porter of the inn, "Have you found the note, Sir?" "No," was the laconic reply. "Well, my wife has told me a singular dream she had last night, and it is to the effect that the bank-note would be found where you placed it—in your great-coat pocket." Incredulous that the dream would prove a reality, prompted more from curiosity than otherwise, the confused lawyer duly searched the pocket of his upper garment, where, to his great astonishment and gratification, he actually found the long-lost note, where it had undoubtedly been placed by himself in a moment of abstraction, or when his mind was absorbed by important matters of business. It should be also stated that the topcoat of the gentleman in question had been left at his home, quite out of the reach of all persons interested in the office, so that no idea of collusion on the part of any one could for a moment be entertained.

THE FRENCH CAMP AT CHALONS.—Accounts from the camp at Chalons, dated the 1st inst., state that the regiments of the Imperial Guard are beginning to assemble there. The detachments which first quitted Paris arrived at the camp on Friday, and found comfortable quarters prepared for their reception. The 3rd and 4th Regiments of Voltigeurs were on their march, and it was expected that the whole of General Bourbaki's division would be established in the camp on Sunday. It was arranged that General d'Antemarre's division should be complete on the 7th inst. The squadron of Cuirassiers of the Guard, to be employed as an escort, had already arrived. The three brigades of that arm were expected on Monday, but the entire force of cavalry could not be complete sooner than the 15th. The batteries of artillery are to arrive at the camp on the 18th and to be completed on the 25th. One company of wagon train had arrived and another is expected on the 7th. Marshal St. Jean d'Angely, who is to command the camp, is expected there with his staff on the 13th. The grand manoeuvres are to commence at the end of the month, of which four are to be commanded by Generals of Division. The camp is now very different from what it was in the year 1857. At that time there were neither streets, trees, nor gardens, as at present. Half the infantry, the engineers, the Generals of Brigade and Division, the Commander-in-Chief and his Staff are now lodged in wooden houses, well arranged and completely ventilated. The privates have prepared vegetable-gardens, which are well cropped. Each regiment brings its furniture, so that on the evening of their arrival the men may dine and drink their coffee as if they were at their quarters in Paris or Versailles. All the troops ask for is fine weather, the heavy rain having converted the chalky soil into white mud. It is said in the camp that some very interesting experiments are shortly to be made with firearms of every calibre. There is an experimental battery, for the practice of artillery, permanently fixed at about a mile to the right of the Marshal's headquarters. There all the guns invented in France or in any other part of Europe are tried. It is expected that several foreign officers of distinction will visit the camp this year to witness these experiments.

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The Premiums on the New Life and Guarantee Policies issued during the year amounted to .. £43,463 6 0
In the Fire Department the Premiums on New Business amounted to .. 18,962 13 5
Making the Total of Premiums on the New Business of the Year .. 62,425 19 5
The Gross Amount received in Premiums during the year was .. 310,623 11 7
The Life, Fire, and Guarantee Claims paid during the year amounted, including bonus additions, to .. 205,160 5 0
It was stated that the progress of the Society's Premium Revenue continued satisfactory, it having now reached the sum of £310,623, as against £160,653 in 1864, and £119,536 in 1865.
The 31st of December last being the time appointed by the deed of settlement for an actuarial investigation of the affairs of the society, the directors have caused the necessary arrangements to be made for that purpose, and the result of such investigation will be communicated to the shareholders as soon as it has been completed.
In the interim the warrants for the payment of the usual interest, due June 30, at the rate of 5 per cent, will be issued, payable on and after the 31st day of July next.
James Furnell, John Hodgins, Thomas Carlyle Hayward, and Robert Norton, M.D., Esq., Directors, and F. W. Goddard, Esq., Auditor, were re-elected.
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